

SEVEN DAYS

THE
REAL
ESTATE
ISSUE

OPEN HOUSE

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LAKEVIEW LOVE STORY

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COVETED KITCHENS

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The word on realtor Jess Bridge PAGE 43

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SEVEN DAYS

**EDITED BY L. J. ANDERSON, UNIVERSITY OF
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[illegible]

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Hartman, Anna Callahan, Margaret Smith, Margaret Jones,
and Elizabeth Brown, 17 E. 1st St., York Pa. and Miss Louise
Johns, Lawrence, Virginia, Penna., John Pennington, New York

[illegible]

ILLUSTRATIONS
 Mary Olin & Thomas Hall, *Some Mammals of the American West*, 1894
 and *Some Mammals of the American West*, 1894

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 (Available for the United States and the United States Possessions)

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7 FEEDback

READER REACTION TO RECENT ARTICLES

PUNISHMENT FOR THE CRIME

[illegible]

Jeff Tamborelli
BUTLAND

RESULTS FROM PARADE

I found it very distressful that Peter Churchill was on the VPTRU float at the Mardi Gras parade. In Shay Totten's column "Rat Game," March 3, Peter says he got caught up in the moment and jumped on the float at the corner of Church and Main. I find it interesting that we were standing in front of Meyer's, and he was on the back of the

TIM NEWTIME

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Kevyn

float at that point, turning and throwing heads. I am not a Vermont Yankee fan, but I believe Peter Shumlin is using this for political reasons.

Georg Seibert
BIOGRAPHY

**DON'T EXPOSE YOURSELF
... TO A LAWSUIT**

These kids taking scandalous pictures of others should be very careful! ("The Sex Reporters," February 24) When someone is pulling up a woman's skirt and a picture is taken, she could sue them for invasion of privacy or for sexual harassment. I am also a little disappointed in her usual expectation of privacy. It's hard to determine whether or not she wanted the person to do this. There is also a lot of gray area around defamation of character. I can see some students with lawyers on parents taking this one all the way. Kids might be on the group leader, not the reporter.

Jake Matthews
ILLUSTRATION

WIND OR HOT AIR?

Seven Days is a "generalist publication"—*serge*, not too much into detail? So says Andy Krausega in an over-the-top review that has unbalanced and almost propagandistic article ("In Yankee's Wake, Legislators Look to What Truck Removable Power Boats?"). Much of the heavily

Source: <http://www.fishbase.org>

1000-9678(200606)16:3<301:DOI:10.1002/jbm.b>

CONCLUSIONS

DISCUSSION

informative, comprehensive dialogue he even still refers to wind "mills" — *how, anyone?* — and had never heard of GPC [Wind Management].

The high lighted statement attributed to the leader of this charge to the magical mountains, Vermont Rep. Tony Klara, "Everybody loves renewable energy in Vermont," is pure wishful thinking on Klara's part. Unsurprisingly, you might ask, or is this just more "generalism"? There are many other moves — not necessarily as easy but far more realistic.

Wind proponents' palpable frustration that the decision of environmental law in Vermont cannot be unilaterally side-stepped is cause for alarm. Kromberg's report that 80 percent of a "deliberative sampling of Vermonters" emerged from a 1988 weekend retreat content to reside within sight of a landscape covered with 400-foot turbines is suspect. How much of the large body of documented, contrasting information was presented to these disinterested participants? Where is the statewide public dialogue? Our systems were founded to assist deliberation. Why circumvent them when they are most needed? Any truly good idea can and will withstand as vigorous examination.

Why are the public and their legislators first not examining the substantial volume of countering evidence against industrial wind power? Apart from its inability to fulfill its mission, subjective evidence of debilitating serious disorders from those who actually do live near turbines suggests cause for great concern, notwithstanding the effects on our more sensitive natural residents.

James Elyan Pivis
MONTPELIER

"GA" FLEMING SHOW

Reading Kevin Fleming's art review of the Fleming Museum's "Views and Re-Views: Soviet Political Posters and Cartoons" exhibited in "[Constructivist Criticism: February 3]. Mr. Fleming is clearly knowledgeable about art and art politics... but to reveal "other contraindications inherent in Soviet art and society" as he suggests, would constitute a less poignant exhibit. For my husband and myself the Fleming's description of and focus on this extensive collection was both educational and insightful. It is a truly rare opportunity to view such a large collection of Soviet propaganda. We strongly urge everyone to visit this fabulous installation at the Fleming Museum.

Julene Teal
BURLINGTON



CORRECTIONS:

Last week's story, "Bunch 'Mark,'" which profiled newly appointed U.S. District Court Judge Christina Reiss, referred to her as "Vermont's first female federal judge." Several astute readers pointed out that while Reiss is the first woman to serve on the U.S. District of Vermont court, technically speaking she is not the first female "federal judge." In fact, Cathleen Brown has been a Vermont U.S. bankruptcy court judge since 2000, unlike district court judges, who are appointed for life by the Senate and president and can only be removed by impeachment. Bankruptcy judges are chosen by the courts of appeals for 14 year terms. Still, seven days ago's story error and spin belongs to Judge Brown.

Last week's article, "Is Yankee's White, Legislators Look to Fast Track Renewable Power Projects," misstated the status of a proposed wind turbine project in the town of Milne. That project is pending approval by the Vermont Public Service Board, it has not been approved.

Also, the last name of a national television host who was in error in last week's cover story, "City on 'Wine.'" It should have been Craig Swartz, not Swartz.

FEEDBACK @PFW

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FOR MORE LISTING ON PAGE 38



SATURDAY 13 **Say "Cheese"**

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6

SEE CALENDAR SPOTLIGHT ON PAGE 32

THURSDAY 11 **Stranger Things Have Happened**

Renowned artist and activist Guillermo Gomez-Pena comes to Middlebury College this week with a wildly ironic, a spoken word in **Stranger Things**. This funny and his ideas & soulful, a new dance program in a new **Stranger Things**. Though, as a dancer and a poet by name, the Gomez-Pena team, San Francisco-based performer takes views on a world-wide role playing cross-cultural issues such as language, identity, race and politics.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 32



everything else...

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Resigned to Fate

Just when you thought Mayor **KIM RICE** might survive night through his second mayoral term, along comes a wake-up call from two long-time rivals: Democrat **ADRIAN** and Republican **DAVE WRIGHT**.

On election night, Adrian again needed that Rice margin — live on Channel 17. He told me it is interesting that the current rejection of runoff voting, and the loss of five Progressives in continued runoff races, along with a Democratic ally of Rice, should send a message to the mayor: "It's time for him to show some leadership and step aside."

Wright, whose victory was fueled in part by an anti-Rice, anti-IRV contingent in Ward 4, via YouTube for anyone's hand — yet.

"Certainly it's a rebuke, but it's not time to call for him to resign," said Wright, who will remain the council after defeating Democrat Ward **DAVE** by more than 160 votes. "I think there has been a series of words between the mayor and the city council, and it has to stop."

No other newly elected councilors called for Rice to quit, but Independent **DAVE PAUL**, and Democrat **WILL REED** did say they expect the new council to fill a leadership "void" on a number of key issues, including Burlington Telecom. That's a police matter, too.

Adrian didn't back off on his call for the mayor to resign and, not surprisingly, Rice said he had no intention of stepping down.

"I think Dave's suggestion is pretty outrageous," said Rice. "I don't think it is a constructive first step on the council, and he brings a tention to the process."

Adrian and Wright have their own history when it comes to working with words.

When he was council president in 2008, Wright called the cops on Adrian because he was disrupting a council discussion by making repeated "points of order" and "points of information."

No one was Tased or cuffed, and the duo has reportedly moved beyond the incident.

In fact, they're having lunch together at Manapahua this week. Is this what they call a voter "tea date"?

The Tide of History

Two Progressive candidates who narrowly lost their bids for seats on the 16-member Burlington City Council have requested official recounts.

In Ward 2, a long-time Progressive stronghold, former Progressive Councilor **EMMA HANSEN STAMM** spent most of her campaign as a Democrat. Her opponent, chairman of the Burlington Electric Commission and a deputy state's attorney, **He** defeated Progressive **MAX TRACH** by just 10 votes, 367-294.

**I THINK THE VOTERS
CLEARLY SENT A MESSAGE
FOR HIM TO RESIGN.**

CITY COUNCILOR **ED ADRIAN**

Democrat incumbent **OWEN HARRINGTON** (Ward 2) was re-elected, defeating Progressive **JENNIFER GARDNER** by a slim 10 vote margin, 302-292.

"The residents of Ward 2 deserve to know with certainty the outcome of what was essentially a race run in darkness," said Gardner. "Many voted for us in hopes of affordable, quality housing and high-paying jobs and they deserve a clear answer, so we're on the line of these races have a great impact on the balance of the council."

The recount will take place at 7 p.m. Monday night in Burlington City Hall Auditorium.

The new council will have seven Democrats, three Republicans, two Independents and two Progressives — one less Progressive and one more Republican than the current council.

The Progs have held almost two seats on the council since 1982. At that point, they held five of 12 council positions. When the council term expanded by two seats, with the creation of Ward 2 they lost one of 14 from 1992 to 1998. They briefly wielded a slim seat bloc in 2001 and 2002 as well.

If Kravtchick and Berenski prevailed, it would mark the first time a Progressive hasn't held a Ward 2 seat since 1981, when **FRANK HANSEN** was one. In 1982, **LEE HANSEN** joined him on the council.

The Progressives scraped both seats until 2008, when Berenski lost two election.

That year — 1981 — was a big one. **BERNIE SANDERS** won the mayor's office because many saw the Democrats in city hall as out of touch, insular and arrogant. Hence.

Insider Trading

Vermont Public Interest Group Executive Director **PAUL BURNS** admitted it was a "significant breach of protocol" when Sen. **PETER TOWNSEND** jumped aboard the VTIRG boat during Burlington's March 10th parade. It featured a "hot roof" nuclear cooling tower. And there's more evidence that VTIRG might be too chummy with Sherrin.

In late January, VTIRG conducted an extensive TV poll to test various anti-VY "messages" on Vermonters, as well as gauging what they treated as a messenger. VTIRG asked about one key poll theme.

"The name was in the mix, as he was an obvious, known spokesperson on this issue," said Burns, who said the poll was not designed to compare Sherrin to any other potential spokesman, and it didn't share answers about Sherrin with Sherrin.

VTIRG did share the rest of the poll results with Sherrin, several other legislators and his office, said Burns. "We made no bones about the poll and sharing it with leadership to move the issue forward," said Burns.

The poll sharing, however, has irked some of Sherrin's critics.

"There are politically charged times, and we all need to be careful in the way we work with organizations on important issues," said former Sen. **DAVE BURNS**. "Before Sen. **DAVE BURNS** and VTIRG should have been more generous with the results."

"I was an activist very early on, and they came to me looking for help on this issue," said Burns. "I would have to pay quite a bit of money to get that information, and they shared it for free with Peter."

Depending on how the primary ends up, the poll could end up costing VTIRG as more votes than cash.

A Photographer Is "Banned" for Taking Pictures on Church Street

BY KEN PICARD

The scene, Dan Scott is an artist who exercises his First Amendment right of free speech by photographing people in public places. To others, he's a creepy voyeur whose opportunistic photo-snagging makes some people, especially young women, uncomfortable. So much so, in fact, that last week Burlington police issued him a trespass order barring him from streets of businesses on the Church Street Marketplace.

SCOTT'S CASE RAISES A FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION ABOUT CIVIL LIBERTIES, ARTISTIC EXPRESSION AND THE REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY IN PUBLIC PLACES.

Scott's case raises a fundamental question about civil liberties, artistic expression and the reasonable expectation of privacy in public places. Is it right, or even constitutional, to prevent someone from taking pictures in downtown Burlington, not because he's been convicted of any crime, but simply because someone finds his behavior rude or "unsettling"?

Scott, 31, is an art photographer from St. Albans who works full time at the U.S. Secret Security Administration office on

Bezel Street. For the last year or so, he's spent many of his lunch hours shooting street, black and white photos of people on Church Street—homeless people, the elderly, families with children, anyone who catches his eye. He insists that all his photos are taken on public property, outside stores or through their windows or blinds of private homes.

Generally, Scott asks his subjects' permission to be photographed. "And if they tell me 'No! I go away!' he says. However, he admits that much of the time, his pictures are candid shots taken from a distance with a telephoto lens so his subjects aren't aware they're being photographed.

Over the years, some of Scott's photos have been published in local public forms, including the Burlington Free Press and Green Days. However, most are taken for fun, not for profit, he claims, as a way of developing his photography skills.

"Look, I'm not doing anything to try to embarrass people or expose them," he says. "I'm just trying to capture the human condition as it presents itself on the marketplace."

Scott claims his troubles began on January 24 while he was shooting photos outside the Burlington Town Center. As he tells it, a mall security guard came outside and told him that he wasn't allowed to take pictures of the mall. Scott inferred the guard that, in fact, he has constitutional right to take pictures in a public street, regardless of what's in the background. The Burlington Town Center's general manager later confirmed that the mall's



no photography policy only applies to its interiors.

Shortly thereafter, Scott recalls, two Burlington cops questioned him about who he was, where he works and what he was doing there. "I said, 'I'm not doing anything illegal. This is pretty much protected speech,'" he says.

But the following day, Scott reports, another Burlington cop showed up at his office and questioned him for 45 minutes. He claims that officer asked him what kind of pictures he takes, whether he photographs young children, and if he ever posts those pictures on the Internet. Scott told him that he occasionally takes pictures of families with children, and sometimes posts them on Flickr, a website for photography enthusiasts.

"He thought that was just despicable," Scott notes.

About a month later, during a February snowstorm, Scott shot some pictures of a woman walking a dog on the outside of the common grounds on Church Street. Scott claims he was about 50 feet away from the woman, an employee of the coffeehouse, noticed his camera and asked him not to take her picture. Scott claims he looked off but the woman challenged Scott to delete the pictures he'd already taken of her. He refused. The following Monday, March 1, a Burlington police officer again showed up at Scott's workplace, and this time issued him a one-year universal trespass order that bans him from 67 establishments.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF

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Decommissioning Vermont Yankee Doesn't Have to Spell Economic Doom

BY KEN PICARD

The Senate's historic "no" vote on the siting of Vermont Yankee isn't likely to be the final word on the state's sole nuclear power plant. But Vermont's utilities are preparing for the very real possibility of a nuclear-free energy future come 2032. Most are negotiating new energy contracts to replace VY's baseload power.

There's been plenty of speculation about how higher electricity prices will affect the state's economy, but other questions remain about how Vermont's economy will fare in a post-Yankee future.

Among them: What are the other economic impacts of closing and decommissioning a nuclear plant? Will all of Vermont Yankee's existing jobs disappear right away, or will new jobs be created by the decommissioning process? And what are the longer-term economic prospects for Vermont and its surrounding communities?

No one knows definitively, but some people are making educated guesses. After all, this isn't the first time a nuclear plant would be retired. One need only look to Vermont Yankee's sister plant, Maine Yankee, to get a glimpse of what might happen here.

Maine Yankee was a 930 megawatt plant located in Wiscasset, Me., a small coastal community about 45 miles southeast of Portland. Wiscasset is located in Lincoln County, whose population in 2000 was 33,616 with a median household income of \$35,890.

In the same corner, Windham County, which is home to Vermont Yankee, had a 2000 population of 44,136 and a median income of \$35,890.

Maine Yankee operated from 1972 through 1996, when it was shut down unexpectedly because of serious structural problems. In August 1997 the plant's owners announced that the plant would close for good, 31 years ahead of schedule. The decommissioning process began almost immediately and was completed eight years later, in 2005.

In 2000 Wiscasset had a population of about 3700 — Vermont's was 2414 — and more than 80 percent of the region's economy was based in service and retail industries, most of which supported tourism, according to a 2006 Community Advisory Panel report on the decommissioning of Maine Yankee.

According to that report, there were "significant and immediate" consequences from the closure of Maine Yankee. Additionally, there were fears about the loss of property taxes and jobs, the long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel, cleanup of the property, and other unknowns about the decommissioning process.

But the impact on Lincoln County hasn't been all that dire. At least that's

the assessment of Charles Coliga, a professor of public policy, management and economics at the University of Southern Maine. Coliga also chairs the State of Maine Commission on Economic Forecasting Committee. About 20 years ago, he was hired by the owners of Maine Yankee to make some predictions about what would happen if Maine Yankee suddenly disappeared from the economy. As for his personal views of nuclear power in general, Coliga says, "I think nuclear power is OK. As soon as we solve the nuclear waste issue, I think it'll be fine."

In his assessment, Coliga determined that the biggest economic impact to Maine would be, as in Vermont, a hike in electricity rates, as well as the significant impact to the municipal tax base. At the peak of Maine Yankee's operation, the plant supplied more than \$20 million in taxes to the local economy, as well as 90 percent of Wiscasset's municipal operating budget. Immediately after the plant's closure, taxes through-out Lincoln County saw their property taxes rise 50 percent.

Nevertheless, Lincoln County didn't suffer long-term unemployment and economic collapse, nor were there wholesale closures of local businesses.



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Feedback

FILM COMMISSION

Kudos to Shay Tutton for drawing attention to Governor Dough's plan to eliminate the Vermont Film Commission ("Per Climate," February 18). As a filmmaker and a film fan, I've witnessed the power of the commission to bring filmmakers to Vermont and support the growth of the film industry here. The truth is that the modest investment made in the film commission each year produces something that Vermont is losing: jobs for its citizens and income for its businesses, not only those in the film industry, but in law, printing, transportation and many other fields. Deep-swing the film commission would, in fact, make the budget crisis worse by cutting off a valuable source of income and eliminating a new avenue for economic growth. Friends of the Vermont Film Commission are working to help our state keep this valuable asset alive. If you'd like to help us, please join us on Facebook, where you'll find more information about how the commission can help Vermont build a solid economic future.

Dary Miller
MONTPELIER

NO MORE 'STORY JUMPS'

It's true that I am a little particular and get worked up over little things, but still, I found the articles on Vermont's *Week* very informative (Seven Days, February 17). I just wish I didn't have to work so hard to read them. I usually read up *Seven Days* online to cover 11 like the new format and like that you're constantly reworking it based on the feedback you're getting. So here's some more feedback: Keep the articles whole. Don't make one flip forward a few pages and then another one, and then back to the original page to read the start of another article and then go through the process again. It's confusing, and I end up skipping around and not really reading it.

Maheidi Seethan
BURLINGTON

PSB IS BIASED

Andy Brannage says that Public Service Board Chairman David O'Hara challenges any legislator to name specific instances of departmental bias toward utilities ("Power to the People," February 27). I may not be a lawmaker, but I was living in Vergennes in 2008

when VERLCO petitioned for a permit (the "Northwest Reliability Project") to upgrade its transmission lines north from Rutland through the western part of the state. VERLCO's request was not permissible under the existing 1998 State Energy Plan, which exposed "bold new policies" aimed at a cleaner and more self-reliant energy future. So O'Hara tried

Jonathan Lessor, former economic analyst for Green Mountain Power, to draft the new Energy Plan (which is required every five years). Lessor went into a back room at DPS and drafted a plan, with no public input, which overruled all the initiatives in the old plan and made VERLCO's proposal acceptable to the PSB. The Senate wisely rejected that plan, but VERLCO got its upgrade anyway, despite very active opposition from the towns along the proposed line — towns, from "the public" that O'Hara's department is supposed to serve. Surely suggests bias to me.

Page Seaton
BARTTOWN

DEAN DEBATE

Regarding "Dean Released: How the Former Vermont Governor Is Riving Up the Health Care Debate" (March 3) you mention how [Dean] "inside the Beltway" [sic] afraid of Mr. Dean because he speaks the truth, and that he's really having an effect at the grassroots level. Regarding some of the things he's insisting on in Vermont, like community rating and others like pre-existing conditions, I ask:

If your house was burning down, do you think you should be able to get homeowners insurance during the fire, a pre-existing condition? In community rating, take two 25-year old males, one who smokes his day, smokes regularly, and doesn't smoke. Should he pay the same as another who is 100 lbs. overweight, smokes heavily in a converted drug user and has five DUI convictions?

Mike Boylan
ESSEX JUNCTION

Photographer PHOTOGRAPHY

on the Church Street Marketplace. If Scott answers any of them, he could be arrested.

"I'd had been drunk and gone into Greenman's Grounds and created a loud scene. I can understand why they wouldn't want me in there," Scott says. "But I wasn't even in the store. I wasn't even in front of the store."

Manager Marc Bertel tells a different story.

"We've had a problem with him a number of times before — taking pictures of women, specifically on the sunny side of things — without asking their permission," she says. "A number of customers have come in and said, 'There's a guy out there taking pictures and it's really creepy to see.'"

Bertel confirms that Scott didn't enter the coffeehouse to take pictures, nor does she describe his pictures as "lewd." Nevertheless, she says, Scott's persistence and demeanor were "unsettling" to her and other employees.

For the young woman, Scott didn't feel only uncomfortable, someone kind of threatening about, and then quickly taking their picture and turning away? Bertel says. Moreover, when someone asked Scott what he was doing, she claims he

became defensive and argumentative.

"I got scared, so I really became a bit really aggressive with me, not physically but verbally," she states.

Brenda Varney, whose family owns Uncommon Grounds, confirms that this wasn't an isolated incident. She says several of her employees and regulars have tried, unsuccessfully, to speak to Scott about his photography.

Lieutenant Ann Morrison with the Burlington Police Department says she's not at liberty to discuss the details of Scott's trespass order, or even confirm that he was issued one. Oddly, it's not because there's a criminal investigation pending. Scott hasn't been charged with a crime. Rather, she explains, it's because the police don't decide whether to issue trespass orders, they simply issue them at the behest of businesses and property owners.

Reporters of the universal trespass policy say it's been an effective tool for reducing petty crimes and money disturbances on Church Street, primarily shoplifting and disorderly conduct. Reportedly, it has cut down on the number of repeat offenders police have to contend with, while also serving as a powerful deterrent to would-be thieves and troublemakers.

Morrison declined to offer an opinion

on the delivery method, a police interjection at the offending person's place of work.

"We can argue both sides of that until we're blue in the face," Morrison says. "The bottom line is, if a business owner requests that we issue a notice of trespass, we're OK with that. We don't require that an allegation happened."

Ron Redmond, executive director of the Church Street Marketplace, defends the practice of barring people from areas where conduct has "crossed the line."

"There are lots of people on Church Street doing lots of things I've organized clean and tidy and orderly," Redmond says. "But when there are times that people express behavior that's inappropriate or makes people feel uncomfortable, then it's the time to act upon our culture and society and all the things we're learning about today's choices."

David Mindich, who chairs the journalism department at St. Michael's College-Colchester, calls that approach "blatantly outrageous.... Some guy who is exercising his First Amendment right to take pictures in a public place is being punished for it. That's about as fundamental a right as I can imagine. I have no idea what could be the possible justification."

Mindich admits he may not be the

most unbiased person in this situation. Scott was one of his senior students at St. Mike's. Nevertheless, Mindich is full-throated that the Burlington Police Department is essentially violating a ban on constitutionally protected speech.

"Church Street is, by definition, the most public place in Chittenden County, if not Vermont," he says. "There's no presumption of privacy. There's no gray area here."

Indeed, many downtown businesses have their own street-level surveillance cameras, one of which helped police catch the killer of Michelle Gardner-Quinn, a University of Vermont student who was abducted, raped and murdered in October 2006.

Under the law, surveillance images of public places are not subject to public release, nor do they require anyone's permission or consent, even if they're posted online. Why? As Mindich points out, the public has an expectation of privacy when they're on public property.

Scott stands on a file a complaint with the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont. "I've never had any sort of incident like this before, so it's a little unsettling for me," he says. "So much at stake for a guy who just goes out and takes pictures." ☐

Vermont Yankee ENVIRONMENT

In fact, Colgan describes the economic fallout as "not pleasant but manageable." Why?

"At the end of the day, a large nuclear plant like this one isn't tightly integrated into the local economy," he explains. Nuclear plants are unlike other large industrial facilities, such as paper mills, which have hundreds of people in the woods logging trees, driving trucks and working in forests.

Also, many of its purchases and supplies are exotic and highly specialized goods, it's not as though you purchase a nuclear pump at the local hardware store. A nuclear power plant, he adds, is really "an economic island. The only impact it has on the local economy is the property taxes and the income earned by the workers there."

Key Shindler, an independent consultant who works for the New England Coalition on Nuclear Proliferation, which opposes the re-opening of Vermont Yankee, lives about 2 and a half miles from Maine Yankee. He's reviewed a 2002 case study on the economic consequences of closing that plant.

Among its key findings, Shindler says that many Maine Yankee employees immediately left the company after its announced closure due to the high demand for nuclear energy experts in the industry. Moreover, while some qualified for early retirement, hundreds of others were retained or hired back to assist in the decommissioning process, since, as he puts it, "They knew where the piping was buried." At the peak of that process, which lasted eight years, as many as 610 people were employed on the site, with an average of 300 employees over the eight-year decommissioning process.

"When you decide to shut down a plant and go into decommissioning, there is no 'pull-down effect' where you suddenly lock the gate and all the employees are outside," Shindler says. Decommissioning a nuke, he explains, is like "building a plant in reverse, because taking it apart requires all the care [of putting it together]."

In fact, the NRCMP report documents a number of positive developments that occurred after the Maine Yankee closure, including, strength in the real estate market, more new

**WHEN YOU DECIDE
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ARE OUTSIDE.**

**SAY SHADIE
NEW ENGLAND COALITION
ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION**

house construction and increases in the average price of a house sold in Lenoire County. Overall, the report concludes, the local economy "took a hit, but statistically, the impact is hard to find." And so for the state's economy. "We have been able to detect no measurable effect of the Maine

Yankee closure," reflected in published statistics.

A spokesperson for Battery Vermont Yankee didn't respond to *Green Day*'s repeated requests for information on the economic consequences of closing and decommissioning the plant starting in 2002. However, a report published last month by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 300 claims that Vermont Yankee employs 670 people and creates 618 other jobs "as a direct result of the plant's operations." In all, their annual payroll exceeded \$95 million last year.

VY itself reports that it purchased about \$76 million in goods and services from Vermont vendors in 2006, and paid about \$16.5 million in state and local taxes and other payments. In all, the company claims it provides about \$200 million every year in total economic benefit to the state and region.

But Shadie advises Vermonters not to fear the unknown. As someone whose own community survived the loss of its nuclear plant, he says, "Come on in. The water's fine." ☐

TALKIN' BOUT REGENERATION

Anyone who likes to dance, spend a good night out, and be in the mix—well, better yet, all three at once—would likely enjoy a "conversation" series developed by **SHARLINE HANSEN**, director **STEPHAN JOSE** in partnership with **SHARLINE FARMER**, **ALL DOLLS INTERMART**, **CANTORINI** and **CHARTER LANE COLLEGE**. Held at the All Souls church at the corner of South and Spruce streets on these intimate but lively "CONVERSATIONS with a dancer, artist, and a poet" will feature **ANDREA ELSON**, Dan Young and **JOANNE**, and especially, the talk will be led by **FRANK STORVARD** (known as **FRANKIE PUBLIC TELEVISION**) "The 1's."

Class is in Middlebury College professorial dance and environmental studies as well as forthcoming book is titled *The Arts of Dance: Young a professor* (University of Oregon College). In an event, elms, and, after other, transitions, party in two other languages. And also an exemplar of a printer who states in southern Vermont, has been exhibited and collected throughout the U.S. and in Europe.

The series came about, says JOSE, after a "series of conversations with the Farmers and the Interiors (church). Our own conversations about art, meeting with ideas about nature and spirituality" in addition, for artists. "The museum has a great presence as a result of the art"—this allows us to do something in the world!

JOSE also shows that he's "just a huge fan of [Stephan] and is glad to put the unusual conversations as he feels. Happily an anonymous donor stepped up to pay for the series. It's about."

While the 3 p.m. time slot will make it harder for just about anyone with a day job to attend, JOSE admits edges that "the out-of-town residents are older, we scheduled it during the day so they can drive to it."

"It's a series I'm excited about," JOSE says. "We'll do it again."

PAMELA POLSTON

'CONVERSATIONS WITH A DANCER: A POET AND A PAINTER'

Andrea Hansen Wednesday March 13, David Young Wednesday March 17, Elsie Kane Thursday March 25, All 3 5 p.m. at the All Souls Church Unitarian in Shelburne (info 888 2345 or ext. 2348)

Clifford Anderson plays



QUEEN CITY

In Vermont, and specifically Burlington, there are decisions for LGBT travelers and the makers of the *Queer City* show. *Queer City* thought it was a good idea to bring over to the Green Mountain State "I'm an episode that contains such local personalities as cartoonist/author **ALBERT MICHEL**, singer-songwriter **DEBBIE BODILAKE**, former Vermont President Maury D. Miller **BENNY HAGARE** and of course the lovely ladies of the **HOUSE OF LEBAN**." The episode premieres on TV this Friday, March 17, at 8 p.m. But locals can see it in a city spot on the top corner of **BARBERSHOP ARTS CENTER** in Burlington at an event hosted by the LaBays. Proceeds from both shows benefit the LaBay Foundation.

MARGOT HARRISON

PRESCREENING OF 'LUMPY VERMONT'

Thursday, March 15, 7 & 8 p.m. at Merrill's Book Store in Burlington. \$5 has-a-lump-ly-bug-ery.com



You can catch Thompson's local humor in a reading, where he's as likely to be presenting the poems as his other two books, collections of his humor columns called *Good Luck and Good*. Another look at my book, and he has a book that may soon grace our comedy stage. "This has been my dream since I was 15 years old," Thompson declares, and adds that he's compiling material that includes possibly true short stories from Franklin County. "I'm finding the book is satirical, who works in their pajamas?" he wonders. "Will he wear pjs for his act? Of course. Is he wearing them now?" Extra.

Meanwhile, Thompson says he feels fortunate that he gets to write humor for a living. "The May will mark his 18th anniversary in Vermont," says Thompson. "But not" And then Thompson's penchant for underestimation, as in the book's title phrase, "You are awful," is a response to the question, "How are you?" that actually means "Great!"

Now *Two Awful* and his enough around material — such as the information that Brookfield residents will see their 1800 feeling bridge to cross Sunset Lake — to attract back people already living here and those who have recently moved here or plan to, from out of state. (Thompson calls these folks "transplants") — a far more suspect crowd than "Defenders" declared in temporary states who are homeless except when they become drift dwelling, distressed travelers in their own towns.)

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Native Son Writes Guide to "Vermonters"

BY AMY LILLY

Of the many reference books on the Green Mountain State, few have been written by authors. But now comes **LUKE THOMPSON'S** *Not The Awful Guide to Vermonters: A Guide to Vermonters*. Thompson is a New Yorker — a graduate of "Vermonters" (or "Vermonters") for you who

less outsiders — who grew up in Shelburne ("Shelby") and lives in St. Albans ("Shelburne"). He is also a reporter and humor columnist at the St. Albans Messenger and occasional contributor to *Seven Days*. That "humor" perk explains that book's breezy stand-up tone.

As for "Vermont, most, most, most is Burlington, because it really is Vermont and New York's adopted city. We don't call it 'The Queen City' for nothing."

In fact, Thompson's book might have been better subtitled *Vermonters' Guide to Vermont*. But he had no map in that part. The volume is the third in a series of reader culture handbooks published by Island Press in Montpelier. Thompson was offered the writing gig after his travelBetween Blue, earlier of the series' second tome, *Live and Stir*

For a Shopper's Guide to New Hampshire, there's his name for the project.

In *Not The Awful*, Vermont came across as an endearing odd, chuckle-inducing place. Consider how residents spend their free time: Some sit, adverbs known as "spending money to spend down an icy winter mountain with sticks on your feet." Others play rock-throwing at local for trash, hitting that a new wandering rock that got well into his business as the square they're peddling. Thompson didn't do every activity or tell every story he wrote about, but he did make a point of experiencing the usual easy. Maple Grove, located in Shelburne just past the elementary school where, naturally, a modest congressional library.

Thompson has an ear for the vocabulary he grew up hearing. His chapter listing local Vermont spots includes Lake that have generated his complaints from natives "satisfied" ("and to be") "satisfied" (why bother with the first "V") and "Vermont knows everywhere else as a Palimpsest."

"It's that Yankee efficiency — even to the letters out of words. But they're still willing to hang onto the word," Thompson jokes by



NEW MEDIA

The virtual Ministry of Peace, 2007

Can We Find Religion Online? A College Professor Says Yes

BY ALICE LEVITT

Whis says religion is made in the Dark Ages? In 2004, Pope John Paul II sent his first text message. Addressed to thousands of subscribers, the message became a duty of that his successor, Pope Benedict XVI, has received. If you're too busy to pray on your own, you can buy a plan to God on Information's MyText.com. If you're Jewish, just make sure your computer speakers are facing Jerusalem. Always wanted to protest yourself at the Gulf Island? You can give you a virtual tour — no badge necessary.

According to Rachel Wagner, an assistant professor of philosophy and religion at Bates College, reading via new media is giving us many choices. On March 15 she'll discuss the topic at Champlain College's Alumni Autumnum in a lecture titled "Virtually Religious: Games, Virtual Worlds and the Hunger for the Real."

Wagner, who spoke with Seven Days via phone, believes that "the virtual and the transcendent are similar concepts" (she picks the action of another world beyond the everyday one). As video games become increasingly vivid and realistic, we seem to get immersed in them. According to Wagner, this means new experience "seeps into our flesh for the real" and encourages us to seek out real-world things in return — online.

Wagner mentions Second Life, an online "virtual world" in which users interact and connect, and, in some cases, have even gotten married. She notes that religious services of all stripes have become commonplace in Second Life — not surprisingly, the believers, some as far already "single" and some not work value games in ways that would have been as religious.

This trend runs the line between new and old, and new gaming. When you Second Life, you're not just going, does it transfer to you? Wagner thinks so. "If I go

to virtual church in Second Life, on what grounds can someone say that's not 'being real'?" she asks.

Some Protestant leaders now like a chanting with a computer to sing a prayer, which, as a young man "growing in the hard drive, you create faith in the world," says Wagner. Such practices raise complex questions about whether intelligence is a program on the computer? If it's your computer, is it a sanctuary? A similar question is raised by Ansh.com, which enables users to write a prayer to be placed in a hole in the Walling Wall by a Tibetan student. Without your physical presence at the holy site, does God still know it's your prayer?

Wagner will address such questions in her book *Subverted Religion, Ritual and Virtual Reality*, to be published in 2011. Pope John, Paul II, over the centuries, had an opinion on the debate. "While the Internet can never replace that profound experience of God, which only the living, liturgical and sacramental life of the Church can offer," he wrote in 1992 for World Communications Day. "It can certainly provide a unique supplement and support in both preparing for the sacraments and in celebrating and sustaining the new behaviors in the journey of faith when it comes."

When Wagner up the next work, she will share her faith in technology ability to evolve with our behaviors — and in the power of virtual communion. **D**

Q Rachel Wagner speaks in *Virtually Religious: Games, Virtual Worlds and the Hunger for the Real* on Monday March 15, 7:30 p.m., at Warner Auditorium, Champlain College. But register free. www.champlain.edu

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THE 20/20 CHALLENGE

ONE SNOWBOARDER'S QUEST TO HIT 20 VERMONT RESORTS IN 20 WEEKS

Since I met all friends here, I can't hang out with you — I've been nervous about skiing at Mad River Glen since I began this project, and for good reason. The legendary ski area's slogan is nothing short of a dare from a playground bully: "It's It If You Can." I hear the word "being" at the end of that sentence, but that's just me.

Mad River is not exactly a place for people like me who hang up their skis in the '90s and haven't gone back. Nor is it a place for folks who learned to ski on a hill cut of ice in Western Pennsylvania. Mad River is serious terrain, with jagged rocks and frozen waterfalls waiting to cause serious injury. Or at least that's what I saw in 1995. This isn't a place for casual snowbuck to nibble down long runouts.

Not only is Mad River's terrain some what gnarly (including for nervous skiers, but 40% of locals to snowboarders). Their silver years, the members (Mad River is non-competitive) vote to keep snowbards off Black Mountain, Alta and Deer Valley in Utah are the only other locations in the northeast the ugliest sport.

But, despite this reputation, Mad River welcomes newcomers, assuming they leave their snowboards in the car. Because its members are not competitive, the snowbards, Mad River has the best of both sides of the coin — it's all about the skiing.

While I found no shortage of fantastic Mad Riverites to show me around the resort, then Thornbury stood out for his devotion to skiing. The 41-year-old happily admits he is a ski bum of the first order. He moved here from Massachusetts in

the woods seasonally as a software consultant, plays on a punk band called One Inch Punch, and refers to his girlfriend as his "major moment." His 40-hour end seems pretty solid.

The chair didn't hold it against me that I was snowboarder. Nor did he judge me for not being able to carve turns like Lindsey Vonn. Though I did get points for looking just as glacial as he.

Before we headed up the lift, Thornbury, whose fur was covered by dark goggles and a thick wool beanie, asked me what I wanted to do. I told him I had no real agenda, but I'd like to stay off the moguls since I'd only skied them twice in the past five years. Thornbury agreed to do his best, though avoiding moguls is a near impossibility at Mad River, where bumps the size of Thurman's teeth cover much of the mountain.

We began the day on the famous single chairlift, one of only two left in the country. The other remains just Mount St. Helens in Cordova, Alaska.

There was something thrilling about riding the single chair to the summit. It allowed a few minutes of quiet reflection and a chance to admire

Mad River's rugged terrain. The landscape has a midwestern to it, setting it apart from heavily mountained resorts.

At the 2027-foot summit, we climbed past the entrance to Catamount Bowl, billed as "everyone's favorite warm-up run." To me, it looked like a death trap. Every trail at Mad River is longer than its other named ski runs. A green run is the equivalent of another resort's challenging blue trail.

We headed down Upper Antelope, a windy crater — if such a thing exists at Mad River — and ended up on the open mountain. Snowday Press: then, we dropped down onto Pinnacle, a puppy straight shot, before arriving at the base area. After a few more runs down brightly named "Intermediate" trails like Buggy Mail and Chaparral, my legs were completely pumped out.

Afterward, I didn't do a woods run — and, my guide told me, you can't do Mad River.

and not make a woods run. I could barely struggle my skis long enough to make it down a trail named for a fairy animal, and now he wanted me to try long turns in the glades? Awesome.

Thankfully Thornbury suggested a 10-foot skidpad between the twisty Catamount and Antelope trails. I still managed to bang it, but now I have the bragging rights — I did the woods at Mad River Glen. Whew, down, five to go. ☺

Mad River

Average annual snowfall: **250"**

Trails: **45**

Lifts: **5**

Skiable terrain: **120 acres**

Vertical drop: **2037'** adult street **\$60**

www.madriverglen.com

THE 20/20 PROGRESS REPORT

✓ **Acres** - 12.29

✓ **Four Corners** - 03.03

✓ **Ellington Valley** - 02.03

✓ **Everly** - 01.13

✓ **Ellington Mountain** - 02.24

✓ **Cathedral Ski Area** - 02.17

✓ **Jay Peak**

✓ **Killington** - 12.06

✓ **Mad River Glen** - 01.03

✓ **Maple Mountain**

✓ **Mad Snow Bowl** - 02.03

✓ **Mount Snow** - 02.10

✓ **Northfield Slopes**

✓ **Okemo** - 03.03

✓ **Pine Mountain** - 01.27

✓ **Smuggler** - 12.16

✓ **Stowe** - 01.20

✓ **Stations**

✓ **Sugarbush** - 12.22

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Different Drummer

Just trying to get some change for the parking meter," I explained to the Greyhound ticket agent.

The middle-aged woman smiled an eyebrow and looked me up and down. If the expression on her face was any indication, apparently I was quite the disastrous sight to behold. Oh, well. She on the other hand, at 5'6, with thin, curly hair, a friendly smile, if somewhat intimidating, figure: I don't know if it was the too-tight coat, puffy-lined pantsuit or the rust-jagged leather boots with the like pin-pointing out the sole like the needle on a compass, but the whole package kind of turned me on.

"We don't give any change," she said, without even a flicker, not to the extent cheerfulness of customer service. Frowning to the right, she added, "There's a change machine on the vending route."

"The vending route?" I said, thinking. A date, then, not of the question? "Thanks so very much."

I was in the Albany, N.Y., Greyhound bus terminal — my first time in this light and happiness-stuffed edifice. Before returning to my road to find the surprisingly pricey parking meter, I figured I might as well check in on my customer — a young man across campus from New York City. The following day he was scheduled to perform at Middlebury College, but snowy weather had canceled his airline flight. Hence the bus alternative.

"Is this Shamus?" I said into my cell phone. "This is your cabdriver, Jennifer. I'm at the bus terminal and wondered if you knew your STA."

"Oh, this is perfect," he said. "I'm all ready here. I caught an earlier bus."

I turned around and spotted a young Latino man, maybe 20 or so, speaking on his cellphone over by the long wooden

bench seats. We simultaneously pointed to each other, nodded and walked over to meet.

"OK, Shamus," I said, shaking hands, "I'm really so relieved to see you. No more stress or anything." While looking at close to three hours for the ride.

"Mope, I'm good," he replied. "And thanks for being here, man." He was short and slinky with chestnut brown skin, closely and precisely cropped black hair and thick, dark earnings — one in each ear. He was a stratosphere of cool so far beyond my demography that all I could do was smile in admiration.

Retracing my steps out of the capital city took nearly all my concentration,

HIS WAS A STRATOSPHERE OF COOL SO FAR BEYOND MY DEMOGRAPHIC THAT ALL I COULD DO WAS SMILE IN ADMIRATION.

which Shamus, refusing meet to me in the shaggy seat, seemed to notice and respect. One day — when hell freezes over — I'll send a GPS device. Until then, I'm on my own.

Once safely ensconced on Interstate 87, I figured it was about time to get the conversation under way.

"So, you're a musician, I understand. What's your instrument?"

Shamus chuckled and said, "Well, my instrument is my head, basically. I'm a beatboxer. Do you know what that is?"

"Yeah, I do," I replied. "A couple of us some jazz, American folk had a contest who was beatboxing. He was pretty far in the competition, if I remember. So, yeah,

you make, like, percussive sounds — like drumming, class?"

"You got it," Shamus said, chuckling again at the minor street knowledge of the old dude. "I'll be performing with a few dancers and singers at this college. I guess it's way out in the boondocks. Man, this is a long way from the Bronx."

I said, "Well, the little I've heard, I've really dug it. I've a drummer from way back when, so I can relate. How'd you get started on this?"

"It was my older brother, man. When I was, like, a higher 7 years old, he was playing some really dope hip-hop singles and he told Shamus, see if you could hang along with that." I just started beatboxing. I mean, it came out like, naturally. And it, like, never looked back."

"How you played with any big name performers?"

"Oh, yeah — I have had real good for me. My biggest gig a few years back, was with Alicia Keys. I toured with her — it was crazy. I was just 16, so my Mom and Papa went with me. But, Alicia — man, she was beautiful. She took me under her wing. She a little brother or something. I learned a lot."

"That's tremendous, man," I said. "I love Alicia Keys. She seems like — I mean, beyond even her music — a really high person. So, when you perform with somebody, they say and you know behind them?"

"Yeah, that's the basic idea. This summer I'm doing some gigs with this awesome Michael Jackson impersonator, and I'll kick him up on the tunes, like you said."

That was all the prompting I needed. I launched into *Billsie Jean* in not my *Arrested Development* — and, on cue, Shamus began the beatboxing, the sounds of an entire percussion section filling the cab: claps, bongs, pops — who claims that I am

the man, / but the kid is not my son —

"Nice, man," I said, winking it down after a couple of verses, "that was so much fun. You are really gifted, my friend. I can see what Alex was thinking."

I've taken this route back to Vermont many times, but it never gets old. At Exit 28, we abandoned the intricacies for the improbably arched George Outer Village just north of Lake George. *Rollin' Broke* Brothers' great *Tommy Hilgert* I could feel my credit cards begin to tingle in my wallet. Next stop was the Brookline/Vermont towns of Port Allen and Whitehall, then — ah-ha — the Vermont crossover at Fair Haven. Once we started north on 22A, my customer's eyes grew wide.

"What do people do here?" he asked. "I love Mad and said, 'You people live for work, or for play?'"

"For anything, son. This reminds me of, like, *The WB*. You feel me, man?"

Having spent my formative years as potting Brooklyn's concrete and asphalt jungle, I was, strictly speaking, this Bronx boy. When I first arrived here, I looked at the Green Mountains with eyes similar to Shamus's. My perspective has since been transformed, but I still remember.

In the darkness of the Middlebury Hill where he was booked for the night, I said, "Shamus, I'm looking to see you on the Greenways website, say five years. I mean it. Your talent is awesome, but, as important, you've got this shining, positive energy."

Shamus took the compliment graciously, and we and our goodbyes. Later that same night, I checked out his many YouTube videos, where he can be found under his stage name, "Anonced 5." I was blown away, and I'm officially lowering the Greenway watch in three years. ☺

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THE
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ISSUE

As Seven Days was planning this issue, a rift from the home issues turned up in our office — the real estate issue of the *Sunday New York Times Magazine* from March 6, 2006. One of our editors found it in a folder of story ideas. Its 200 colorful pages include numerous ads for luxury homes and condos, and once a full page spread offering “discount mortgages.” How times have changed. Flipping through it four years later — in the wake of the mortgage default crisis and recession — we can’t help wondering which of the developments cited in the *Times* has gone belly up, the billions more real estate cycles it profiled is currently in bankruptcy court and might go to jail.

Vermont hasn’t escaped this catastrophe unscathed, but the state hasn’t been hit as hard as most. Vermont has the lowest rate of just two mortgages in New England, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association’s National Delinquency Survey for the fourth quarter of 2009, the state ranks 46th nationwide. In fact, it turns out the recession might have a silver lining for some area homeowners: Economist Art Wood reported last week that, according to his calculations, housing in Vermont was more affordable last year than

at any time since 2003. “This is good news,” he says, “for households with good credit who have sized up for a down payment.”

Many of those households seem to be getting the message — the starter-home market is pretty tight, especially in Chittenden County. Lauren Oker reports that the **first-time homebuyer tax credit** may be opening sales in that category (page 10). On the other hand, Vermont’s **luxury market** isn’t moving very quickly, as *Asly* Frensch says in an history about a **\$7.6 million island for sale** off the coast of Charlotte (page 34).


Buying or selling a house might be easier if you work with a **spirited real estate agent**/or owner/tutor bit promoter like Jessica Bridge. Lauren Oker describes why the 33-year-old Burlington agent has been so busy lately (page 28).

But real estate isn’t just about the bricks — Paula Ready contributes an essay about the **architectural appeal of her new house** (page 12) And Ren Fissel talks with

a **real estate lawyer** who explains what you can learn about people from the deeds to their houses (page 13). Of course, no real estate issue would be complete without something photos of beans — see the food section for *Success* Publisher’s tour of some of Vermont’s most **delectable private kitchens** (page 18).

Downsizing has its appeal, too, as Ren Fisselberger’s new “Shark in Vermont” video illustrates. She re-interviews Peter King, the “Tiny House” builder (previously) she first profiled in November 2006. That video has been viewed more than 75,000 times on YouTube, and sparked a flurry of interest in King’s gospel of simplicity and freedom from mortgage debt. Since then, he’s built 13 tiny houses, nine of them in Vermont. In this week’s video, King introduces a Montpelier couple who are selling their 2,000-square-foot home and moving into a 400-square-foot structure. You can find the video, and all of these articles, at sevendaysreport.com.

— CATRY RESMER



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**PARENTS
UP**

Doing Good Deeds

BY KEM PICARD

THE REAL ESTATE
LIFE

One of the most important financial decisions people make is buying a house. So, before Dennis Hill's clients sign on the dotted line, he makes sure they know what they're getting, wants and all.

Hill, 57, an real estate attorney with the Williston firm of Casaccia, Davis and Hill, is in the world of real estate, he is also a dying breed at work: an attorney who does his own title searches. That means, when Hill's client is preparing to buy property, he visits the town clerk's office and pores over the land records himself.

Ironically, he's looking for any encumbrances—easements, restrictions, easements or liens—that might affect the transfer of the land. Sometimes those encumbrances are as old as the hills.

For example, some Vermont towns and villages have "ancient roads" that run across private property. Though they may be overgrown or invisible to the naked eye, these ancient roads can show up on old property maps. And without a proper title search, Hill explains, a town may say *de jure* ownership of that road, even if it hasn't been used for centuries.

Hill isn't a Vermont native, but he moved here in 1967 when his father, an IBMer, relocated to the area. He attended Champlain Valley Union High School "back when it was called Cave Valley, because we put our parties under the opposite's benches," he says. "My wife never believed one until we went to my high school reunion." Hill's wife, Susan McNamara-Hill, deals with local records, too. She's the village clerk, treasurer and tax collector for Essex Junction.

Hill had been involved in Vermont real estate since the late 1970s, when he was hired out of law school by Frederick Reed, the former Vermont attorney general who later worked for Governor Howard Dean.

Hill has the soft-spoken and dispassionate demeanor of a small-town Vermont lawyer. He has a salt-and-pepper beard and natural glasses. On the day we meet, he wears a brown sweater, tan chinos and leather hiking boots. He has a folio bag of a hunter and a carrying nature that says a job that's all about talking to people.

These days, about 50 percent of Hill's work is in real estate, another 35 percent involves decedent's estates. How are those two areas related? Simple, he explains. The most common and valuable asset people leave to their heirs is the house they lived in.

SEVEN DAYS: Are title searches done differently in Vermont than in other states?

DENNIS HILL: Vermont is unique in that we keep our land records by town. In most states it's by county, or it's completely computerized. A lot of attorneys [in other states] aren't involved in their title insurance companies do all that work now... But we have substantial numbers of fraud, regulations, permits issues that are not title problems in other states can become title problems in Vermont. So you have to be very careful.

SD: Do Vermont title records differ much from town to town?

DH: Each town keeps their records differently. The wonderful thing I love is, you can go up to the islands, to Isle La Motte, in the morning and do a [title] search, and then drive back that night to Lincoln and do a search up in the mountains, because their [clerk's office] was open at night to accommodate people.

Where else in the country can you do that? When I started in the '70s, there were land records kept in town clerk's homes. That was fascinating.

SD: Really? Where?

DH: Waterville's records were in someone's house, St. George's were in a mobile home. Pasts were in a garage. Back then, you had to make sure you were on the clerk's good side. But you learned so much from them, because each town was its own subculture. The town clerk, by far and large, were people who loved the land, loved the town and knew all about their community and took an active interest in it. More so than their shops they were the center of the town's politics and community.

SD: Tell me about the records themselves.

DH: It is hard to explain to someone, but I love the old handwriting in each town. You think land is boring, but



it can be a little bit of a surprise you see what's owned if. You can tell from the land records whether the family had hard times or whether they had problems with their neighbors. If you're looking at some of the old records, many of the deeds were handwritten. In those photography machines, the town clerk used to handwritten the descriptions. Some of the penmanship is good, others are not so good.

SD: How far back in time do you research?

DH: The general rule is that you go back 40 years, or to anything that you notice when that chain [of ownership] that puts you on notice of another state.

SD: What kind of things do you come across?

DH: Some of the [property] descriptions are "from along the stone wall to the old oak tree, turning to the right and going that far." That's very common. The most common restriction was against cattle horses. A lot of people put those in there... And I love the old farm deeds that... very carefully list every piece of equipment that they were selling, like the cows and their numbers. Sometimes they even have the names of the cows listed.

SD: What else do you find?

DH: Unfortunately I've seen restrictions based on race or religion. Those do exist in deeds in Vermont.

SD: Do you document these restrictions, even though they're illegal?

DH: They're very infrequent, but you do. For full disclosure, attorneys should list [those deeds]. And people want to know about their property. That's one of the reasons I like to do title searches myself, because I like to talk to people about the property and the use of their land.

SD: Has your work changed much since the 1970s?

DH: The town clerks are much better and have much more work to do. You can't get a find for what you used to, to get a find for what you used to. Back when [you did] were kept in their homes, you'd sit and have cookies and milk and just talk. It was a wonderful thing.

SD: What do you enjoy most about your work?

DH: My favorite thing will be when, at the closing table, there's a great grandchild, a daughter, a granddaughter and the grandchild is a child having a diploma, so the great-grandson can live with her grandmother's side by side. Or the one where you have the couple in their eighties who've lived in the house for 50 years who are selling to a young couple who are just starting out. Or if you can help a farmer stay in business. That's the tough one nowadays. ☺

F work is a monthly interview feature. If you're a Vermont resident with an unusual occupation, skill set or profession, write us at: ken@vermontlife.com

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Bridge Builder

Burlington realtor Jessica Bridge wants to make you happy

BY LAUREN ORR

knows what she wants. She has a clear vision," he says.

Practically, that vision is centered on the Greater Burlington housing market, where Bridge and her partner Cypress have already staked a desirable claim. One reason the pair got into the business, says Cypress, was that they both knew so many people who would be willing to buy in Chittenden County in the future. It seemed like a logical step.

Initially, Bridge says, the sales component of real estate turned her off. She didn't want people to assume she would try to push property as their job because she was a seller. "I had a picture that sales equaled not caring," she says, her New Yorker accent smacking out. "But I sleep well at night for a reason."

Bridge has crafted her recent real estate business around trying to understand what makes people happy

"It makes me feel good to make other people feel good," she says. Anticipating people's wants and needs is a skill she's fostered over her many years in the service industry, where success is directly related to customer satisfaction.

Bridge grew up about as close outside New York City. Coming from a solidly middle-class family that valued initiative and hard work, she got a job as soon as she was able. As a teen, she worked in restaurants and slugged it out on farms. "I wanted to be independent," Bridge says. "I didn't want to have to ask any parents for anything."

Her college career began at Rutgers, where she intended to major in Business. But, after a chance encounter with the university's dean of admissions, whom she told of her plans to open her own restaurant one day, Bridge changed courses entirely. She enrolled at the University of

Nevada, Las Vegas, and studied hospitality management. The major suited her personality. "I just love, love, love people," she says. "Restaurants were the best way to be around people and be social."

Las Vegas did Bridge in other ways. The landscape beyond the glitzy city—jagged peaks rising from a stark desert—spoke to her, she recalls. She was captivated by its sheer extremity—not for the first time, or the last. Bridge frankly acknowl-

**JESS HAS THE UNIQUE
ABILITY TO READ PEOPLE'S
PERSONALITY AND
MATCH THEM WITH
A PROPERTY.**

BECKY BORD, KEYMAN

edges her attraction to the extreme. Her 34 tattoos, her stint as a vegan and her time studying Buddhist martial arts stand as evidence.

When Bridge followed her then-boyfriend to Burlington after four years in Park City, she couldn't find a job. Her someone used to working off the grid, unemployment was a killer, she recalls. She spent her days throwing a tennis ball for her dog.

After a couple of months of searching, Bridge met the owner of Red Square, who happened to need a temporary bar manager. It was serendipity. Bridge took the job, which she calls "cocaine and total immersion into Burlington nightlife."

Not long after, an opportunity arose to buy the assets of the 1/2 Lounge next door. With business partner Tyre Dunning, with whom she also co-owns the tattoo studio Aesthetic Inc., Bridge switched up the property and rebranded it as a different type of bar. "We had to mind a place for adults. Nobody was doing it," Bridge says. "No one was making organic cocktails. No one had a cheese menu."

Word spread that the top dog of a watering hole was the place to go for the edgy creative crowd. Business exploded because of word of mouth—but though Bridge claims she still runs into people

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Bridge Builder NEWS

who's never heard of the place. And she kept making new connections.

A positive appearance with a natural left bridge, thinking about leaving the hospitality business and entering the home selling fray "Real estate is not totally intimidating, and I needed a new challenge," she says. Bridge also saw real estate as a potential route to financial security — which, for her, means the ability to take care of her parents or her brother if they need it.

Most people who know Bridge say they've been friends with her for years, though they're not quite sure how they met. It's not they're just always known her, they say. Cypress is one of those people.

When the pair learned they both harbored a desire to get into real estate, it only made sense that they'd do it together. After spending time on a team at RE/MAX North under the tutelage of Mark Thurston, Bridge and Cypress struck out on their own.

Cypress' financial background mixed well with Bridge's experience in customer service. He sees their differences as strengths. "You never market down, and sell much better at helping people see space," he says. "It's very personable and intense in a good way." Their complementary personalities have produced sales figures that are "pretty amazing," Cypress adds. In the past two and a half months, the pair's business has doubled, and February was their busiest month yet.

"You have the unique ability to read people's personality and match them with a property," says Becky Beers, a treasury relationship manager at KeyBank, who went to Bridge a year ago for help finding a house. She and her fiancé, Kevin Stone, had known Bridge for years. After giving a sense of what each of them wanted in a home, Bridge seemed to know intuitively what would work, Beers says. Though they initially said they didn't want to live in the New North End, she showed them a property in that part of Burlington that offered everything they were looking for. They loved it.

An average workday for Bridge starts at 7 a.m. with a quick check of email and ends somewhere between 6 and 11 p.m., depending on what she has going on at the 1/2, her labor of love. Despite this workload imbalance, Bridge looks any thing but haggard or run-down. To the contrary, she has an undiminished glow on her skin. Her minimalist-inspired wardrobe, complete with neckties, is crisp and pressed, and her chameleon eyes are bright and engaged.

While her diet consists largely of delicious food, she manages to maintain an enviable trim physique and creamy complexion. She wears her hair short, rainbow-colored hair long, with thick bangs that she often pushes to the side when she speaks. Bridge jokes that her hair hides her ever-present Bluetooth, which makes it look as though she's always talking to herself.

But she's listening, too. At a recent condo showing, Bridge demonstrated



her knack for understanding her buyers' tastes. The first property, a one-bedroom within a historic Vermont building, had a dispirited layout, textured wallpaper and few right angles to be found. Bridge knew the buyer had lived in mostly modern buildings and might find the space uncomfortable. She suggested a more curved front wall to fit the building down the street — a "dope space," she called it — right next better. She was right. The buyer perked up when she saw the sleek kitchen and new hardwood flooring.

With a schedule that leaves little time for leisure, Bridge admits balance isn't one of her strong suits. But when it comes to her clients, "If you want me, I'm committed," she says. Last year she scheduled an open house for a client on a Wednesday and spent the evening in the South End home passing out candy to trick-or-treaters. The house sold just days after it was listed.

"This might sound boring," Bridge said, "but what I really love doing is making people happy." ☐

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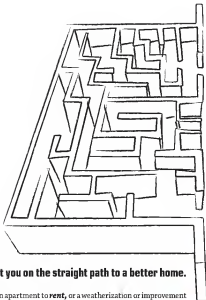
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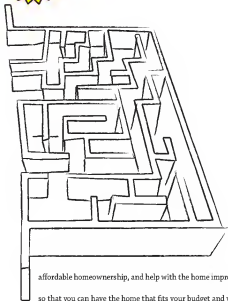


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That \$8000 from Uncle Sam is making homebuyers out of fence-sitters

BY LAUREN GREER

Josh Skocim looked for his first house for more than six months before he found the one. The 169-year-old Cape Cod in Winooski wasn't huge — about 1000 square feet — but it was just what he wanted. Skocim, 35, organized his financing and put an offer on the house last January. Because it was a short sale — a sale whose proceeds are less than the balance owed on the property's loan — the seller's bank got involved, and it took a while for Skocim's offer to be approved.

When he finally closed on the property in August, Skocim, the executive director of the South Burlington-based nonprofit Rural Consumers Alliance, realized the closing costs and the costs of initial repairs were a little more than he could handle. But his status as a first-time homebuyer qualified him for the \$8000 federal credit. Knowing that he'd have that money coming his way, Skocim felt comfortable borrowing from friends to cover the closing costs and those basic repairs.

Three months after he filed for his credit, Skocim received an \$8000 check in the mail, signed by Uncle Sam. "It felt like the Publishers Clearinghouse," he recalls. "But it wasn't like it was play money." That cash went straight to the friends who helped him out. What was left over went into a kitty for future home repairs.

Skocim says the credit was a huge incentive. It's a common refrain among

many first-time homebuyers who have taken advantage of the government's effort to help spur the sluggish housing market. It's difficult to measure the precise impact of the program, but local

\$7500 for first-time homebuyers. A year later, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act expanded that credit by \$800. The credit does not apply to single people with incomes of \$125,000

Approximately say Vermont real estate professionals — the money is working to bring people into the market. Statistically, says broker Christine Trapp of Colburn & Butler Black & Boardman

Really, the credit has "done its job." New home sales are lagging, but existing homes in the low to middle price range are moving. Two years ago, 30 percent of new Trapp's buyers in distant they were first-timers; this year, that figure has climbed to 53 percent. "It doesn't get any better than this with low interest rates and the stimulus," says Trapp says.

In October and November 2009, just before the credit was extended, area real estate agents saw a huge uptick in the number of first-time homebuyers seriously looking to purchase property. People wanted to get the \$8000 for which they were entitled. Bob Hill, vice president of the Vermont Association of Realtors, is seeing the same trend. Home hunters now, as first-timers realize they have just 60 days to get a house under contract. After a drop-off in sales in December and January — historically slow months for real estate — interest in the market from new homebuyers rose to fever pitch, Hill claims. "The point of the credit was to get people off the sidelines



real estate agents and market watchers say it's definitely having an effect.

When compared to the rest of a new, entry-level home in this market — somewhere in the neighborhood of \$250,000 — eight grand doesn't seem like very much. But when a new buyer has dented his or her savings for the down payment and is living lean after paying for inspections, repairs and the closing, the extra cash is a nice little boost. Skocim admits that he could have bought his home without it.

In 2008, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act authorized a credit of

or more, or couples with a combined income of more than \$225,000. In November, Congress extended the credit, but despite the expansion and extension, few in the industry expect the credit to be extended after it expires in July.

That means first-time homebuyers must have a home under contract by May 1, 2010, and must have closed on the property by July 1, 2010, in order to be eligible. Existing homeowners who are looking to move up are also eligible for a \$6500 credit if they have owned their current property for five years or more

F To find out more about the first-time homebuyer credit and how to receive it, visit www.irs.gov/efile/guide

and get them to make a decision," Hill says. "It's definitely working. Houses under \$250,000 are moving."

While the Vermont Real Estate Information Network doesn't have exact numbers of first-time homebuyer sales in the state, Kathy Swetten, the organization's executive vice president, confirms that sales activity in Vermont has picked up in the last couple of months. In 2008, 349 single-family homes were sold in Chittenden County. Last year, that number jumped to 409. She attributes the increase not only to the tax credit but to the fact that home prices have stabilized in the region and the housing inventory is good. "We definitely have a healthy market here," Swetten says.

Brian Mulvaney Stank knows that to be true. When she began looking to buy her first home last summer, entry-level housing was being snatched up as soon as it was put on the market. As the tax credit window began closing, it became harder to find an affordable property. When she finally landed on a house she could afford, she pounced on it. "I offered the asking price," she says. "I just had to throw open the checkbook because I was worried it would get snatched up."

The opportunity was as good as gone up her seat on the city council to take advantage of it, she had lived in Burlington's Ward 2, but the new place was in Ward 3. When she moved, she was required to step down. Last Tuesday, her new neighbors voted her back on the council, representing Ward 3.

The 29-year-old closed on her two-bedroom house in Burlington's Old North End right before Thanksgiving and says she is looking forward to getting her \$3000 check. The credit, she says, will "accelerate the existing pace of home ownership," she plans on using part of the money to redo her bathroom, which, she reasons, will help the local economy. "I'm putting money back into

the community and someone else will benefit from the credit," she says.

Meredith Huff, a first timer from Stowe who works as the marketing director at Concept, plans on using her credit to "replace the reserves," which was denied shortly after she purchased her condo. She spent the first six months paying her place and making it her own. The credit, which she hopes to get in a couple months, will go toward reimbursing her rent.

Like Mulvaney and Mulvaney Stank, Huff, 31, was pushed to take the plunge in part because of the credit. It was the incentive she needed to make a move now rather than wait around. "Knowing some of that money might come back to me made it seem less of a scary

deal," Huff says. But only does she have \$3000 covering her way, but she also has the satisfaction of knowing she did her part to stimulate the economy. Like all home purchases, Huff's had a modest trickle-down effect on the economy. But cumulative housing sales help keep realtors, real estate attorneys and mortgage brokers in business and inspire confidence in the market.

Increased activity due to the credit, and to historically low interest rates, has a downside, though — first-time home buyers in the region may find it hard to locate a property in the low to middle price range. The average length of time a new bedroom house sits on the market is just 60 days, says Tropp says, making it a true seller's market.

Most houses under \$300,000 are getting multiple offers, and many of them are selling for the asking price. That means first-timers have to get aggressive if they're going to land in their dream house. Average buyers in that price range lose the first two properties they think about putting a bid on.

"If you wait until the one and it's the one," says Tropp advises, "you have to buy it today." ☐





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Home, Sweeter Home

How Lakeview changed my life: a tale of real estate redemption

BY PAULA ROUTLY

I wasn't looking for a new house. I thought I was perfectly happy in the 800-square-foot "single-family" home I'd occupied for 20 years in Burlington's Old North End. Working upwards of 60 hours a week for 25 years, I couldn't realistically maintain much more than a duplex.

And this one was truly "affordable." I purchased it in 1992 for \$52,000, and the mortgage payments were small and short lived. This made it easy to overlook the European-styled kitchen appliances and the absence of doors, windows and a guest room. All the utilities costed me no less than 100 bucks a month.

I made improvements over the years — backyard garden deck, shed, new for me — but there's only so much you can do with a no-bedroom, no-bathroom, no-garage pod. Any significant change would have triggered a domino effect of expensive upgrades and unpleasant choices between the westeris and the would-be woodstove, between the locust tree and the imaginary exercise room.

I couldn't find the time or energy to think beyond "starter home."

So I didn't. Until last summer, when I was biking home from work one Saturday and decided to turn onto Lakeview Terrace. It's my favorite street in the city — three blocks of dense, established housing on a hill overlooking the lake, behind Burlington College. In the old days, not from the Mason Plant lowered the rents.

But since the industrial harbor has become the Burlington Waterfront, the neighborhood has morphed into a sweet spot, an eclectic enclave of artists, actors and entrepreneurs — the city's residential magnet strip. A frequent visitor to the street, I imagined someone from the lake side would one day approach me and declare, "It seems like you belong in this neighborhood. Why don't you take my house?"

It didn't happen quite like that, but an unexpected for sale sign caught my eye. It wasn't the hand written one that had been up for years, demanding \$499,999 for a scary green house that Mayo Harts Allen Newman has since bought and rebuilt. This one stood in front of a lovely, respectable, landscaped home with a killer view of Lake Champlain.



THE REAL ESTATE AGENT



I tried to memorize the realtor's number so I could call, but knew I'd forget it, so I turned around. At that moment, the front door opened and a couple emerged.

"Do you live here?" I asked. "Or are you looking to buy the place?"

They were the owners, so I asked for a quick tour. This was totally out of character for me. I was an MLS virgin who had never thought to combine the words "Burlington," "move" and "real estate" in my mind, let alone in an Internet search.

Still, I admired the front door, with its heavy wood frame, patterned glass and old-fashioned doorknob. On the other side, I could see all the way through the house and out the back to a gorgeous perennial garden, the shimmering lake and the Adirondacks. I felt like I was beholding a spectacular altar from the corner of a church.

Initially, I was already moving in. The kitchen was open, with an island and enough glass cabinets to display the

family china I'd been storing in a shed for more than a year. The living room's built-in shelf would hold our still-growing collection of books.

The nursery? Nada! I actually mislabeled this glassed-in chamber with radiant floor heat? A couple of years ago, in the chaos of running my business, I had consulted a professional — should I financial adviser? lawyer? — who asked me a simple but troubling question: "What do you want?" Meaning, if you ever manage to retire from Seven Days, where do you see yourself?

All I could come up with was an image of an older version of myself reading in a comfortable chair with an afghan draped across my legs, looking out at the lake.

This lake. This view, variations of which have been with me since I went to summer camp in the Adirondacks.

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Sweeter Home #152

I probably shouldn't have chased that thought with the owners, but I did — a huge nagging thought that was.

The next day, I thought my boyfriend over to see the place. The day after that, I made an offer. They turned it down.

A "down economy" brings its own special pressures. Everyone thought I should be "getting a deal," but I thought the asking price was fair. Should I gamble and risk losing the house? Or proceed as if there were no recession, knowing that, in better times, the house would most certainly have sold to a buyer more motivated and moneyed than me?

While I was trapped in the hell of cognitive dissonance, I kept myself mentally prepared to stay where I was. Part of me wanted that to happen, I think, because leaving the old house felt like a betrayal of my history. All my memories were there. Also, this new house might be just as conspicuously fancy for a Sears driver, and the move promised to be incredibly disruptive. When was I supposed to find the time to sort through, pack up and transport all my things?

I was so ready to reject the outcome, I never considered that this totally spontaneous decision could turn out to be one of the best of my life. When the sellers finally accepted my — third? — offer, I became at 49 years of age the

grand owner of my first grown-up house.

Ben Franklin counted a "little house well filled" among the "great riches" of life. But after 20 years, having a bit more space is a rich life.

The old house, which had no enclosed shelves, was pushed to the rafters. The TV was blacking access to the closet that housed the sound system. There was no place to install a cat door, so we kept a window open upstairs — just in case — knowing full well that other animals could get in that way, too. My African art had seen better days, but I couldn't bring myself to relegate them to a moldy basement.

It turned out there were some pretty

real stuff rotting down there already: more antique chairs, an old sewing machine, a parcel from Thailand I'd forgot ten about. There's room for all of it in the new house — which has twice the square footage. Also, cupboards that close. Closets with doors. A laundry chute. Unpacking was the best therapy I've ever had. Remarkably, after all our things had been placed in the bigger digs, you could still hear an echo.

It was a good excuse to acquire some furniture. My first purchase was the big square chair and ottoman of my retirement fantasy, which I placed strategically in a corner of the sunroom with a northwest view. A donated couch came next, with a dyed section that faces southeast. Print-

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either spot, I can keep a watchful eye on my new best friend Lake Champlain.

I now realize I wasn't a very keen observer of Burlington's signature natural attractions, despite canoeing in and on it for years. Like the majority of Burlingtonians, I'd seen many more sun sets than sunrises, mostly in the summer. My exposure to the lake was almost always curtailed by wind, cold, darkness or fog. After was a firsthand kayakist's view.

What do you notice when you can comfortably observe Champlain at all hours of day and night? Seasons last forever — like, as hour. Where the sun goes down changes dramatically in the course of a month. The morning

light on the Adirondacks makes them look close enough to touch, especially in the winter. You know the lake is in the process of freezing when a pattern of cotton balls of vapor rises over the water. "Moon sets" get a lot less press than do sunsets, but they're just as awesome.

By June, I never really saw the lake. Now I can't stop looking at it. Surveying it every morning puts things in perspective — historically, geographically, evolutionarily. And it's comforting, like a fire, it's constantly changing, and I don't want to miss a single drop or cool cloud formation. If I happen to notice the sunset from my office window, from which I

can see a wedge of sky, I wish I were seeing the whole show from home.

This same yearning goes for the house itself, which occupies that cozy place in the brain reserved for new loves. When I'm at work, I think about the place with a combination of longing and excitement. I can't wait to see it again, and imagine what I'm going to do once I get there. Dishes. Laundry. Reading. Hot tub. Soaking under a night sky in winter is like a massage — something you don't think you need until you've had one.

My friends and relatives are convinced this is a positive development — they labored hard to make this house thing happen. But I wonder if they've

noticed I'm not calling as much, not going out, and not really loving people over. It's because I can't get enough of the house, which still feels like a really nice hotel from which I never want to check out.

Either the gang was, or I really needed this.

I've had to make a couple of bus trips since we moved. Both times the plane was angled so I could see the house from the air. I used to worry about crashing, but my prayers to the JetBlue gods have simplified. Just deliver me back to my house so I can spend a bit more time there. After all the months I've missed, I'm finally seeing the light. ☺

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Psst ... Wanna Buy an Island?

Chittenden County's priciest property listing is in the middle of Converse Bay

BY ANDY ROMANE

THE
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WEEK

Back in 1975, Bill Baruch was thumbing through the New York Times when he saw an ad for a private island for sale in Vermont.

He phoned the listing agent and learned the property was on Garden Island, a Lake Champlain islet off the coast of Charlotte believed to have been the summer retreat of President William Howard Taft. The compound had a "main house" with exquisite woodwork and original 1960s fireplaces, along with five cottages — all with electricity, water and septic — set on 30 acres posted around a protected waterfront.

Baruch and two business partners — brothers Robert and James Brown — hopped a plane from New York to Burlington the next day to investigate the rare find.

"We had a snowboat and a little five-horsepower motor, and we pleyed across in early March — there were some broken ice floes still there," Baruch recalls. "We got on the island, and in and there was just a very amazing place. Everything was boarded up and dusty and rusty, but we all recognized the true magic of the place."

Baruch and the Browns, then young men in their thirties, loved the property. They spent two years putting the financing together, then bought it for \$250,000.

Now, 35 years later, with their children grown, the owners have put the island retreat on the market at a price as big as the bathtub once used by President Taft: \$39 million. The estate's \$38,652 yearly property tax bill is just as eye-popping.

Garden Island is the larger of the two islands at left.



(The retreat takes up most, but not all, of the island, which also has three small, independently owned properties.)

That asking price buys not just the acre houses, but a Victorian "viewing tower," a pontoon boat, three tractors, a wash house, kayaks, a gazebo, four rowboats, steel-frame docks and loads of Adirondack chairs. In short, everything needed to run a summertime retreat that has been living vacationers to its secluded, sandy shores for years.

Question is: in today's market, will it sell?



Garden Island is currently the third most expensive property on the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) maintained by the Vermont Real Estate Information Network. Only a palatial \$16 million estate on Upper Springs Road in Stowe and the 1900-acre Smolkenhouse Valley Preserve retreat in Chester, listed at \$34.5 million, boast higher asking prices.

It's among several multimillion-dollar Vermont properties that have languished unsold for months while a battered real estate market struggles to recover. To the south, in Dover, a 36-acre private

resort with a nine-hole golf course, priced at \$52 million, has been on the market almost two years. A 90-acre property in Londonderry listed at \$49 million — which has three houses, a pool, ponds, tennis courts and "mountainous trails" — has been listed for about 640 days.

The Garden Island retreat went on the market last May. Right prospective buyers have toured the island, though none has yet made an offer, listing agent Debbie Foster says.

"It is recession has affected people from all walks of life," says Baruch, an agent with Coldwell Banker. Bill Brock Real Estate in Middlebury. "It has slowed the market down considerably for second houses, as this would be."

Once a series of individually owned beachfront strips, the Garden Island land was bought, sold and consolidated throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s. In 1947, an orthopedic surgeon from Bristol, David Roseworth, and his family purchased the property. A church group owned another portion of the island until recently. It was the Roseworths who sold the retreat to Baruch and the Browns in 1975.

Baruch and Robert Brown, who grew up childhood friends in New York City, now helm the international realty, marketing and merchandising company SPAR Group Inc., with Brown as chairman and Baruch as vice chairman. James Brown is a lawyer who lives in the Boston area. Garden Island's main house, Maple House, was the summer getaway for Baruch, the Brown brothers and their families for more than three decades.

"Whole generations of part-time children have grown up on the island, kids coming around on the dock," says Bartels.

The real estate brochure for Garden Island describes it as the ideal place to "take away" the summer. Maple House is a classic Victorian summer cottage with six bedrooms, three refrigerators, a wraparound porch, porch flares, a game room and three bathrooms — one of which includes Telly's oversized tub.

The other five cottages — Cedar, Oak, Birch, Pine and Willow — were mostly built between 1920 and the 1930s and feature screened-in porches, decks and fireplaces.

With a septic system and electricity fed from the mainland by underwater cable, Garden Island is a lot more developed than most Champlain islands, realtors say. But it maintains a rustic flavor. The houses aren't insulated. Drinking water comes from the lake and is pure of using ultra-ultra filtration. Guests arrive by a pontoon boat that takes eight minutes to cross Converse Bay. The aquatic shuttle service, which provides a couple of summer jobs for college students, is available to guests 24/7 as long as they stay.

Over the years, the islands' domestic cliffs and impressive mountain views have lured a mix of newbywhos, families and other celebrities, such as CBS News anchor Charles Osgood and a teen doctor for the New York Rangers. The cottage listings rates that range from \$1275 to \$2750 per week, and they fill up fast. Summer 2010 is already 80 percent booked, Bartels says.

Bartels says he and his partners decided to sell after getting a slightly "ug grander" sales pitch from Debbie Porter and Ray Porter, also a realtor at Coldwell Banker. "It was somewhat 'dilly dilly' to think about selling the island property after so long, he adds, but "life goes on."

Pricing the property on Garden Island wasn't easy. Porter and Bartels

say Porter looked at islands that sold in Maine, New Hampshire and New York for "comparable." She also looked for clues on the website privateislands.com, where she advertised the Garden Island estate. But nothing of food or exact match.

"Not many of these islands have six houses on them," she notes.

Privately owned Champlain islands of any kind rarely come up for sale — maybe once every 10 years, by one real-

tor. The high price of insuring an island — against fire, theft and weather — may contribute to making it a tough sell. Shoreline property taxes and logistical challenges can also be deterrents.

Garden Island has been on the market for almost 200 days now. Porter declines to reveal the names of any of the estate's potential buyers, but says they include Vermonters and out of state. Notably absent from the mix: Canadians.

"I am a bit surprised, because a lot of Garden Island like to look at something on the lake," Porter says. "A lot of them bring boats down. It would be a lovely place for someone from Montreal to come down to."

Could the list price be the problem? It is more than six times the property's assessed value of \$1.3 million, as determined by the town of Charlotte. But that's not so unusual, local realtors agree.

"This is a pretty aggressive price, but then I don't know what you compare it to, because this is Vermont," says Debbie Walker, a Charlotte real estate agent who owns a camp on a half-acre plot on Garden Island. "How many islands are there on the lake? And how many islands are there like this?"

If the Garden Island retreat does go for even close to its list price, it will set a record for the most expensive MLS property sold in Chittenden County. Currently, that record is held by the former lakefront home of Jon Rahm, who sold his Quaker Square Point property on Shelburne for \$1.85 million in 2005.

While the market for privacy estates isn't booming, Porter suggests the "special" rules for real estate don't necessarily apply to a property like this one, which is worth as much as someone who wants to live there will pay.

Will the island weather the downturn the way its stunted centuries of lush lake estates and glens? That's the \$79 million question. At least today. ☐



PHOTO BY GUY LAWRENCE FOR ENR

ter's gaze. Pick Bladder Island, a speck of land between South Hero and Maltais, sold for more than \$1 million to a couple from Greenwich, Conn., in 2005, two years before a devastating fire reduced the island's historic lodge to a pile of smoldering ruins.

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Bitchin' Kitchens

Local home cooks show off their unique prep spaces

BY SUZANNE PODHAIZER

THE
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Some kitchens haven't been updated since 1977, while others are geared up with fancy counters and shiny appliances that look as though they were made for a restaurant. But, while marble and stainless steel may add resale value, they aren't what make a room one of a kind. A resident chef often does. So no cowls are so passionate that their kitchens become reflections of their particular styles.

For the *Seven Days Real Estate* issue, we sought out some local kitchens that were designed to meet their current unique needs. One effortlessly combines elegance with flexibility, while the other two integrate indoor spaces with the outdoors.

Steven Palmer and Anna Rosenblum Palmer, Shelburne

Anna Rosenblum Palmer, Steven Palmer and their two young sons live on the windswept Lake Champlain shore in Shelburne. Their contemporary cedar-shingled home—with a breathtaking view of the water—looks like something out of a magazine. In fact it is. The house, designed by Essex Junction architect Michael Morosco, was featured in the *May/June 2008* issue of *Design New England*.

Although it boasts a five-burner gas stove, extra-wide range and fancy stainless-steel fridge, the Palmer kitchen isn't one of those custom rooms best suited for cocktail parties. After all, it was designed with family in mind.

Taka, for instance, the cherrywood-topped counter that functions both as a work surface and a kitchen table. "Granite is practical and easy to clean," Rosenblum Palmer says. "But I didn't want a stone counter, because my family practically lives at this counter, and I wanted it to feel like home." Plus, she continues, "I like the surfaces I use all the time to take on what I call 'the patina of life.'"

STYLING: KITCHENS: © P&P



Left and Right: Rosenblum Palmer



Steven Palmer and Anna Rosenblum Palmer



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food

Bitchin' Kitchens



Mark Hurling

That potter is certainly unavoidable when you let two help with the cooking. Missy, mornings, Rosalind, Pulaski explains, her 4-year-old whips up her own oatmeal with just a tiny bit of help. Both he and his 3-year-old brother "are words like sunny and happy" to describe foods, she says proudly.

Concentrated, however, the Pulaski parents split the work of turning the ingredients they get from farm shares into simple, delicious meals. "We've got [fresh] pigs and cows downstairs," she notes. "We do a lot of roasting."

That roasting, combined with plenty of baking, is the reason Rosalind Pulaski dreams of making one major change to the kitchen. "I wish I had a second oven," she says.

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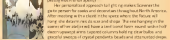


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KAREN KANE

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The MacKillops, Charlotte

Before wearing the cap and gown at Georgetown Valley Union High School in Hinesburg, each senior must complete a "Graduation Challenge." It's only fitting that '08 grad Coprene MacKillop found a way to involve the cooking in her project. She's the daughter of two local entrepreneurs: Mark MacKillop, who owns Muddy Waters in Harknessburg, and Carrie MacKillop, who owns Charlotte's Old Brick Store.

Inspired by Vermont's artisan bakers, Coprene set up an apprenticeship of sorts with Carla and Chuck Cornsop of Shelburne's O Bread Bakery. In addition to crostini, loaves and cookies, Coprene

KITCHEN CREDITS: 30 PAGES

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For the uninitiated, an AGA is a large, round, cast-iron cooking stove that sits on a small base. It's a traditional Japanese cooking stove, and it's a true labor of love.

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LAUREN OBER

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food

Bitchin' Kitchens BY JOE

needed to "build a tangible product as part of my project" she explains. Her father suggested they work together to construct a wood-fired oven beside their Charlotte house.

The finished product is a dished clay oven made almost entirely of locally sourced materials. Mark notes that it resembles a smaller version of the ones used at *American Flatbread*. He also claims it's the only unusual thing about the cooking setup at the farmhouse. "We like to cook and stuff, but we're not really into gadgetry," he notes. Indoors, he continues, "We don't even have an island."

New at University of Vermont student, Caporaso has her own apartment in Burlington, but a few times a year she heads home to help throw pizza parties. Because the oven requires so much



Want a wood fire to roast at.

needs are the stuff of legends. "We've occasionally asked to give parties for people like Don Pagan and [famed rock 'n' roll teacher and author] Madeleine Kamen," notes Kate.

Having two complete kitchens, plus a pair of outdoor fire pits, allows the couple to show off their disparate talents. The specialized "fire kitchen," as it's called, boasts a wood-fired cook stove, a subzero stone sink and a rack from which roasts, while parts of most restaurants drool.

The main kitchen is more conventional, sporting a dishwasher and hot-to-colded refrigerators, but has plenty of fun gear attractions. Along with a collection of vintage cookbooks and copper pots, the pair displays authentic vessels from around the world, including a

skillet, she says, "It's only worth it when we're feeding a bunch of people. It's an activity."

When she owns her own place, Caporaso is certain she'll build a smaller structure. "You can do it over the course of a summer and put in a few hours per week," she says. "It's a recreational activity and very affordable."

Bill and Kate Schaubert, Hinesburg

When Bill and Kate Schaubert entertain at their Hinesburg home, the wood-fired



More food after the
classified section. PAGE 21

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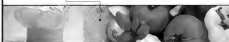
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EOE



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ATTN: Lorne
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P.O. Box 903
Williston, VT 05498

Baseball Coach

Our Westford School is searching for a middle school boys
(6th through 8th grade teams) baseball coach for their spring
2010 season. We are looking for committed individuals who
will be able to coach baseball in a competitive and sportsman-
like manner. A minimum of two years of varsity level baseball
playing experience (or equivalent) required. Experience
working with middle school students preferred. Position pays
\$1359 for the season.

All coaches must be at least 18
years of age or a high school
graduate at the commencement
of the sport season for which
the person has been appointed
to coach. Candidates must
also meet the certification and
training requirements of the VPA,
including ASEP (American Sport
Education Program) certification,
and certifications in both Sports
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To apply, please visit our website
at www.cvsart.org (click on Job
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information, please contact
A.O. Richard Staub at
rstaub@cvssvt.org or
802-878-5932.



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Bread Loaf Corporation, Vermont's integrated company
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Garden Centers Job Fairs

3:00–5:30 pm

Thursday, March 11

Williston Garden Center
427 Marshall Avenue, Williston

Spring is just around the corner and our very busy spring/summer season at Gardener's Supply Garden Centers is about to begin! For ALL positions, we're looking for avid gardeners, reliable and quick learners who are enthusiastic, outgoing, upbeat (no matter what!), flexible, team-oriented and who will thrive in a busy store! Ability to work weekends is a must.

Customer Service Associates: Previous customer service experience is strongly preferred.

Yard Associates: Work outdoors! Must be able to lift 50 pounds.

Green Goods Sales Associates: Outdoor work. Sales experience is a must; and basic horticultural knowledge of annuals, perennial and woody ornamentals is preferred.

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For more information, call our Retail Jobs Hotline: 660-3518

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CHAMPLAIN VALLEY HEAD START



Champlain Valley Head Start (CVHS), a program of the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, has been awarded funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) for the implementation of an Early Head Start (EHS) program. As part of this project, we are now hiring for the following temporary position (funded through September 2011).

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (Burlington) Responsibilities include providing clerical and administrative support to the CVHS Director, EHS Coordinator and to management staff: word processing, data entry and generating reports, document production and mail management, processing, filing and tracking fiscal and program documentation; communicating with staff, parents, vendors and various agencies and office management/organization. Open to those with Associate's degrees in business management, computer applications, clerical or related field, as well as 3 to 5 years of relevant work experience. Also required are intermediate to advanced skills in MS Word, Excel, Access and Power Point, speed, accuracy and efficiency with word processing and data entry and customer service skills. Experience with MS Publisher or other desktop publishing software and web-based applications in a prior 10 hours/week, full-time. Anticipated schedule is 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday with some flexibility. \$16.00-\$17.00/week depending on qualifications and experience. Excellent benefits/benefits package.

Successful applicants must have excellent verbal and written communication skills; skills in documentation and record keeping; proficiency in MS Word, Excel and Internet; exceptional organizational skills and attention to detail. Must be capable of positive, mature, professional, diplomatic, sensitive and have a can-do, extra mile attitude. A commitment to ethical, positive and to working with families with limited financial resources is necessary. Client driving record and access to reliable transportation required. Must demonstrate physical ability to carry out assigned tasks. People of color, and from diverse cultural groups, especially encouraged to apply. Please submit resume and cover letter with three references by e-mail to: jd@champlainvalley.org. No phone calls, please.



CHAMPLAIN
COLLEGE

Academic Operations
Manager
Division of Business

The Operations Manager provides overall coordination and administrative support to all functions within the Division. Manage course scheduling, plan budgets, prepare adjust contracts and on boarding as well as process curriculum development and revisions. Provide positive, high level administrative and coordination support to the Division Dean. Assist faculty directors in meeting the Division and College's enrollment management and program quality goals. Act as a communication point person and problem solver to Division faculty students and other academic/administrative offices.

A 4-year degree and 3 to 5 years of relevant experience is required. Must have excellent MS Office skills (with demonstrated strengths in Excel and spreadsheets), be highly organized with strong attention to detail, and have the ability to create and manage operational processes and systems. Familiarity with Google+ data analysis, and performance metrics is preferred.

Submit a resume and cover letter online at www.champlain.edu/hr. The successful completion of a criminal background check is required as a condition of employment. Review of applications to begin immediately. Position open until filled.

Champlain College values, supports and encourages diversity of backgrounds, cultures and perspectives of students, faculty and staff. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Howard Center

**Exceptional People
Sought as Shared
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SEEKING RESPONSIBLE, SINGLE MALE to provide a structured living environment for a 13 year old man. This young man enjoys video games, rollerblading for the local community, working on collaborative building projects and accessing the YMCA. He is quite independent and is ready for the next phase in his life. Best candidates will be able to help develop further independent-living skills and establish an engaging daily routine. Locations near a bus line are preferred. Contact Miriam Hamilton at 888-9571

SINGLE PERSON OR COUPLE SOUGHT to provide a home for a good-humored 28 year old male who enjoys electronics, music and current affairs. Patient, fun-loving player with clear communication required. Contact Miriam Hamilton at 888-9571

Howard Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities, people of color and persons with disabilities encouraged to apply. EOE/DFW. All offers contingent upon comprehensive benefit package in qualified employer.

**The Work You Do in a Day...
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WATER CHESTNUT COORDINATOR (W. Hines, VT) The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the world's largest environmental non-profit organization, seeks an environmental team player committed to conservation and with great people skills for a full-time Assistant Corps supervisor open hourly Jan. 31 - Sep. 3, 2009 in the Southern Lake Champlain Watershed (available if needed). Complete application due by Mar. 19, 2009.

Details, job description and requirements available at: www.tnc.org/careers. Click on "How to Apply." Click on "West Region." Enter keyword "Watershed." Select "Paved Anytime." Click on "Search." Click on link to job opening of choice. To apply click on "Apply Now."

For assistance with the online application system, send an email to: applyhelp@tnc.org EOE.

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**Vermont
Network**

Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

The Vermont Network is seeking a dynamic public relations expert to fill a newly created position with our organization.

Community Outreach Coordinator

The Community Outreach Coordinator will develop, implement and sustain a comprehensive communications plan for the VT Network. The ideal candidate will have a background in public relations, and a vision for using social marketing and community engagement strategies to create social change and strengthen support for the organization and its member programs.

This is a supervisory position, providing oversight and leadership for the Social Change Team in the development of an integrated strategy for maximizing opportunities for social change. The position is full-time (40 hours/week) and includes a competitive salary and benefits package.

Qualifications include:

- Four continuous years of experience and education equal to a BA or science degree in a communications, education, human services or related field, or a master's degree in a related field;
- Minimum of three years experience as professional experience in communications, public relations or marketing;
- Minimum of three years experience supervising staff;
- Minimum of three years experience conducting major programs or initiatives;
- In-depth knowledge of domestic and sexual violence issues;
- In-depth knowledge of social marketing and/or community engagement strategies or theory;
- A demonstrated commitment to anti-oppression work and ending violence against women;
- Ability and commitment to working within a team model to achieve organizational goals;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
- Excellent group facilitation skills.

Send a cover letter and resume to karen@vermontnetwork.org by March 22, 2009. The Vermont Network is an EOE.

**What do these people
have in common?**



David Johnson
East Region
Ben Thomas
Mid-Region
Maria King
West Region



Alex Graham
West Region
Alex Smith
Mid-Region
Josh Conry
West Region

They all pursued their passion!

If you enjoy working with young people, have strong content knowledge, and a Bachelor's degree, check out the CCSU Teacher Apprenticeship Program, a 6-month Vermont teacher licensure program for career changers. Admission for Fall 2009 is now open!

Information Session
March 16, 2009
8:00 - 9:00 PM
Roxbury High School



www.ccsuvt.org (TAP)
or contact Scott Menden at 802-234-0631 / smenden@ccsuvt.org

**Head
Pre-Toddler
Teacher**

Looking for an energetic person with early education experience in a child care setting. Must be a team player, have a high school diploma and enjoy working with young children.

Call 802-872-8772
and ask for
Shacey or Maureen

Norfolk Hardware, a growing retail hardware, plywood and custom millwork company located in Londonderry, VT, seeks an experienced

retail sales associate for part-time work with our Williamstown location. Previous woodwork knowledge would be beneficial, but we will train the right candidate. A great attitude is what we are looking for.

Norfolk Hardware

Come grow with us! Please stop by our store located at 31 Adams Drive in Williamstown for an application or forward a resume to the attention of Carl Farnsworth, c@norfolkhardware.com

Sterling College

WORKING HANDS • WORKING MINDS

Sterling College, a 100-year-old liberal arts college in Ordinary Common, VT, is currently seeking individuals qualified for the following jobs:

Dean of Students & Director of Residence Life

This is a senior staff position for a motivated and personable individual who will be responsible for the overall management of the college community. The successful candidate will have a minimum of five years of experience in a similar position with Sterling College.

Sustainable Food Systems Director/Chief

This position is for an experienced individual who will be responsible for the overall management of the college's food systems, including the development and implementation of policies and procedures, and the management of the college's food systems.

Summer Farm Apprentice

This is an unpaid, on-site learning and development opportunity for a person with a strong interest in sustainable food systems and a desire to learn about the college's food systems. The successful candidate will be responsible for the overall management of the college's food systems.

Launch Line Cook

The position is to help the Sterling College property manager for day work and day work. The successful candidate will be responsible for the overall management of the college's food systems.

To learn more about these jobs and how to apply, visit www.sterlingcollege.edu/jobs.

Vermont Public Interest Research Group

HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE

VPIRG is looking for an exceptional advocate to join our team for high-quality, affordable health care for all Vermonters. This is the ideal position for an experienced advocate looking to take on a new role in a state that's willing to lead. While specific health care policy experience is a plus, it's critical that you have a proven track record of effective campaign planning and advocacy. You have a proven track record for public interest issues and a sense of how to leverage grassroots networks to achieve legislative and policy change. This is a full-time exempt position based in Montpelier.

Requires 3+ years experience in public policy advocacy including campaign planning, message development and testing, coalition work and direct advocacy with leaders. Must be politically strategic, media savvy and possess strong writing and public speaking skills. Health care policy experience a plus. A full job description is available on our website.

Competitive salary, employer-provided health, dental and disability insurance, employee training, IRA contributions, generous leave time. VPIRG is an equal opportunity employer. Submit your letter, resume and writing sample to info@vpirg.org.



For more info visit www.vpirg.org
VPIRG, 111 Main St., #6, Montpelier, VT 05602
w. 802.223.5221 f. 802.223.4055

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TRAINING COORDINATOR

The VNA is in search of a full-time, technically savvy individual to coordinate our training process for telephone, our computerized scheduling, billing and payroll system. In addition to providing the initial training to staff on how to use the program, this position will design, plan and organize the training process to ensure all staff are using the system to its maximum potential. An associate's degree is necessary; strong computer skills, particularly in Microsoft Office, are required. Successful candidates will have prior experience training others, both one-on-one and in group atmospheres, and will have the flexibility to support a wide range of abilities and learning needs. This position is budgeted for one year only.



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Experienced, Part-Time Bookkeeper

Montpelier, VT

Local nonprofit (affordable housing) seeks bookkeeper with double entry accounting, accrual and payroll and tax experience. Must be able to read and prepare financial statements and work with outside CPA, third-party property management accounting staff, and additional several tax partnerships involved.

Knowledge of MS products (Word, Excel) required. Prior experience within property management field preferred. Knowledge of MIP (Sign) or similar software a plus. Send resume and hourly rate requirements to edna@affordablehousing.org

References required



Equal Housing Opportunity
This is an Equal Housing Opportunity. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D/V.

The Converter Home



Experienced LPN

needed for Saturdays and Sundays in Greenfield, our small dementia care community

For more information, or to schedule an interview, please call Donna at 802.852.0491 or email donna@converterhome.com.

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Burlington, VT 05401
www.converterhome.com

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The Grand Prize:

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Jay Peak Resort
including all meals
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Send receipts
and contact info to:

Seven Days Winter Bites
PO Box 1164 Burlington, VT 05402

- 1 Collect your receipts from participating restaurants.
- 2 Send them to Seven Days* by March 26 to be eligible.
- 3 The more receipts you send in, the more chances you have to win!

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

Locate, rate & review at sevendaysvt.com/winter-bites/

BURLINGTON

154 Bistro Burlington
A Single Pebble Burlington
Asiana House Burlington
Asiana Noodle Shop Burlington
August First Bakery & Café Burlington
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The Daily Planet Burlington
Fresh Market Burlington
The Green Room Burlington
Hardy's Lunch Burlington
Junior's Italian Burlington
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Leonardo's Pizzeria Burlington
Levin's Bistro Burlington
Majors On Main Burlington
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New World Terria Burlington
Norm's Grill Burlington
Sedie Katz Delicatessen Burlington
Selena Bona Burlington
The Saffier Steak and Ale House Burlington
Sever's Brazilian Steakhouse Burlington
Three Tomatoes Trattoria Burlington
Vivo Espresso Burlington

RICHMOND, SO BURLINGTON, WILLISTON

Eric's Place (formerly Nothing But Noodles) So Burlington
Ground Round So Burlington
Mexican Authentic Mexican Grill Williston
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On the Rise Bakery, Richmond
Sushido Williston
Three Tomatoes Trattoria Williston
Trader Duke's So Burlington
Vermont Sports Grill So Burlington
Windjammer Restaurant & Upper Deck Pub So Burlington
Wings Over Burlington So Burlington

COLCHESTER, ESSAY, ESSAY JUNCTION, WINDSOR

The Belled Cow Essay Jct
The Black Golly and Cakeshouse Windsor
Drunkon Noodle House Essay Jct
The Essay Vermont's Culinary Resort & Spa, Essay
Joyce's Noodle House Essay
Junior's Italian Colchester
Loretti's Fine Italian Cuisine Essay Jct

Ray's Seafood Market Essay
T Bones Restaurant & Bar Colchester
Three Brothers Pizza & Grill Colchester
Troy Thai Restaurant Essay & Windsor

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3 Squares Café Vergennes
American Hollow Middlebury
The Bearded Frog Shelburne
Bistro Sauce Shelburne
Black Sheep Bistro Vergennes
Bobcat Café Bristol
Long Trail Brewing Company Bridgewater Commons
Marty's Restaurant of the Inn of Golden Creek Bristol
Open Arms Café Shelburne
Slam! Night Café Ferrisburg
The Steam Café Middlebury
Tourville New Haven
Up Top Tavern Vergennes

MORRISVILLE, STOW, WATSFIELD, WATSFIELD

Ben's Knees Morrisville
Big Picture Theater & Café Watsfield
Green Cup Café & Bakery Watsfield
Herb of the Wood of the Great Mill Watsfield
MNT Restaurant & Two Lounge Watsfield
Pizzeria Pizzeria & Lounge Stowe
Stou Sushi Watsfield

MONTPELIER, PLAINFIELD, ST. J

Block Door Bar & Bistro Montpelier
Desserts Food & Spirit St. Johnsbury
Festive Pie 2 Montpelier
Restaurant Phoebe Montpelier
River Run Restaurant Plainfield
Sandwich Restaurant & Bar Montpelier

FRANKLIN & GRANVILLE COUNTIES

Blue Puddle Bistro So Hero
Chewy Bites St Albans
Corner Bakery & Café St Albans
One Federal St Albans
Steeple Market Stowe



The SEVEN DAYS Guide to Vermont
Restaurants & Bars

*Info: sevendaysvt.com/winter-bites/
*Info: sevendaysvt.com/winter-bites/



More food before the classified section. PAGE 22

"Manghan first put me dragged back from China" and a Miami "bird house" from Africa.

Whether they're looking for sight or for 12, Bill and Kate made the trek together. "We plot out the menu," says Bill. "Kate takes the first things, the simplest things. She'll do guacamole, very sophisticated vegetables, fabulous desserts." Her sweet specialties include a steamed pistachio pudding and fifth favorite, a combination of homemade

vanilla ice cream, prunes and peanut liqueur.

His role is the culinary collaborator. Making the most, most of which is passed behind the bar at the Jem Telen market in Montreal. When he's cooking a large piece, Bill hangs it at most restaurants for a day to let it dry and allow bacteria to take care of it — a process that, he admits, horrifies his children. Then he rubs on a sesame and gathers his leading.

That may sound like a lot of work, but for the 46-year-old, it's totally worth it. Says Bill: "It's a real expression of love for family and friends to get together and have wine and eat and cook." ☺

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*Book 1 table or party (10 or less) with us!

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24 Dine-in/24 Carry-out • 24 Dine-in/24 Carry-out

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Menu (see below) • 24 Dine-in/24 Carry-out

TUESDAY
OPEN FOR DINNER 5:30 PM - 10:00 PM
Menu (see below) • 24 Dine-in/24 Carry-out
24 Dine-in/24 Carry-out • 24 Dine-in/24 Carry-out

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BURLINGTON • NEW FORTY ONE
862-4339

A QUEST FOR KITCHEN COMPLETION

I just passed one thing for my 10th birthday. I would admit, a birthday present is a little bit of a birthday present.

By that time, I was already doing the cooking when my parents' emotional and my specialty and my cooking. I was already doing the cooking when my parents' emotional and my specialty and my cooking. I was already doing the cooking when my parents' emotional and my specialty and my cooking.

As an adult with a birthday coming special month, I was already doing the cooking when my parents' emotional and my specialty and my cooking.

Many websites, including an online called www.kitchen.com, are making my dream a reality. I was already doing the cooking when my parents' emotional and my specialty and my cooking.

How could I resist? The \$200 price tag. Perhaps my birthday wishes must come on this birthday.

But there are always a few more. I was already doing the cooking when my parents' emotional and my specialty and my cooking.

Unconventional food on the menu, but as long as I can remember, I've wanted to eat a meal that is both a meal and a meal.

Remember the first time I went to the first restaurant, the first time I went to the first restaurant, the first time I went to the first restaurant.

Remember the first time I went to the first restaurant, the first time I went to the first restaurant, the first time I went to the first restaurant.

Remember the first time I went to the first restaurant, the first time I went to the first restaurant, the first time I went to the first restaurant.

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music

TAB the Interview

Seven Days talks "dad rock" with Adrian Perry

BY DAN ROLLES

By most measures, TAB the Band are not terribly different from any number of successful, up-and-coming indie acts. They're from South by Southwest. They've switched labels on the orders of NPR, PopMatters and Rolling Stone. They've toured the country and parts of Europe opening for big names such as Dinosaur Jr. and Black Rebel Motorcycle Club. They've got kind of a retro cool about them that the kids seem to dig. They have sweet T-shirts for sale. TAB the Band are pretty much "living the dream." And yet, to quote the late, great Rodney Danger Field, they "get no respect."

TAB was founded by a pair of brothers, Tony and Adrian Perry. Again, that's not an unusual biographical factoid, found on scores of poorly written indie-on-the-rise and promo materials. But TAB are unusual. They are "different." And it's all because of their peppy nor-south-y.

Adrian and Tony are rock 'n' roll royalty. Or at least their dad is. They are the sons of Aerosmith guitarist and bassist Tom Hamilton. And dad Perry One might think such a lineage would be an asset, especially given the oft-apocryphal nature of their chosen field. But in so often the case with the progeny of the rich and famous, that gives more *grunge* equal cause for intrigue and skepticism.

Seven Days recently caught up with TAB the Band's leader and vocalist Adrian Perry by phone from LA in advance of their upcoming show at The Monkey House.

SEVEN DAYS: It seems as though you and your brother were brought up on some pretty cool, and obscure, music. Was that something you appreciated at the time?

ADRIAN PERRY: Well, I grew up with my mom out in California. So my musical taste basically evolved of my own volition. My mom listened to a shitload of Cheap Trick and I remember getting into that. As I got a little older, though,



my dad introduced me to the Jeff Beck Group. And there were some obscure things along the way that he introduced me to. But my initial musical formation was really just through The Beatles. I loved them from the time I was a little kid. My grandfather was a jazz musician and teacher, and I listened to a lot of that. My first gigs were jazz. So it's really just a melting pot.

But it's true that there were groups my dad was familiar with from the '60s and '70s that I wouldn't necessarily know about, like Bluey Pig, but most kids maybe wouldn't have the exposure to that. That's something that kind of happened a little bit later. But it's definitely fun to have all of those different influences, from my grandfather to the stuff my mom listened to and what my dad was into. You definitely benefit from having music in your family.

SD: There's often a stigma attached to being the children of famous people. Is that something you've experienced, or that you try and distance yourself from?

AP: I don't know that I try to distance myself from anything. We don't trade in it. Just because, if you want to be taken

seriously, you can't. We're not angling for a reality show. We're a real band. We do whatever we choose. We live to do it.

But that's just one of the problems. People often assume that it's a real benefit. But I think there are many more drawbacks than benefits to the association. Which is unfortunate, because it's weird to be put in a situation where you're, like, almost running away from your family. It just weird. I like the fact that it's a musical family... that's a cool thing. But it's a line.

Most people will listen to our music through a lens of "How much does it sound like Aerosmith?" But we're just a different band. And they'll assume other things. Like we're just a bunch of teens, or we don't work hard. Typical things. Obviously, I don't think it's true. But it's per for the cover. We're used to it. We don't get pissed off when people ask. You just have to go in there and win over what you do. And people will either accept you or they won't. But ultimately it's not our problem.

6 Grab the *Smashley* the Monkey House with a Johnny Hagar live show Saturday March 21 at 8 p.m.

NA NOT TALK, NA NOT TALK NO COVER

TODAY & FRIDAY

100% PURE Dave Matthews Band's Standalone Showcase
10 p.m. Free

THE HONEYBEE (Baltimore) 10 p.m. Free

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FRI.12

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BARBON Trained Legacy Riders of Horses, 10 p.m. Free

SAT.13

Burlington area

BARBON Trained Legacy Riders of Horses, 10 p.m. Free

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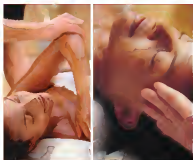
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Slide Away

Winter may be winding down, but it still has a hunk or two left. Snow-centric sports, for example, are still going strong — take the Catskill Trail Association's third annual Backcountry Challenge Race & Tour. Competitive Nordic skiers and leisurely-paced "tourists" alike tackle a thigh-burning 2100-foot climb and exhilarating 1300-foot descent en route from the Tripp Family Touring Center to the Bolton Valley Nordic Center — an 80 percent unspoiled trail, no less. Besides the stunning mountain-top views, "A lot of people do it just because it's a real challenge," says CTC's executive director Jim Fredericks. "If someone has to break snow, they break snow. It will all depend on the conditions of the day." A post-race group meal and raffle prizes make it worth your while. Up for the adventure?

BACKCOUNTRY CHALLENGE RACE & TOUR
Sunday, March 14, at Bolton Valley Nordic Center
Check-in 8:15 a.m.; noncompetitive racing starts
10 a.m.; competitive racing starts 11:30 a.m.; \$40-50
advance registration, \$30 on-site; bus ride to start at
Tripp Family Touring Center; info: 884-2684; www.bctsa.com/racing

14 | SPORT

Hope Against Hope

You don't need to host a theme party to sway around fundraising slacks. However, in or given the dark recesses of this weekend, just not that at Bolton Valley Nordic Center. Hip on the slopes, American Cancer Society fundraisers on Saturday complete with themed six hours of flashlight parade and live tunes by the Sad Butcher and Buzz for On, and lots of abing and riding, of course. If you go, you'll get a vertical challenge to the north side on the 11-hour downhill at Mount Snow on Sunday morning. Not a bad idea if you're a fan of the sport. It's a benefit for Western College's upcoming Relay for Life. "If you are a cancer survivor or know [or] someone who has cancer, hope is something you cling to every day," says Mount Snow organizer Peter Case. (That's a way to lend some hope.)

13 & 14 | SPORT

Dead Funny

The *Reese Community Players'* current production proves that comedy kills. Smoothing the fading a dead body in the room, so *Labour of Sins* (Minnis) and *Reese* (Wiley) discover in *Ray Cooney's One of Us*. Peaked in the early 1980s, this British farce combines an illicit love affair with workplace politics, a pet's brutalizing and, of course, a dead wife's pushing up daisies. "It's a good gyanity," says first-time RCP director Anne Polli, who chose the play for its laugh factor. "It's not members who have from all over the state propel the fast-paced plot to Wiley's evening grows ever more calamitous. Minnis's Clem, Tarnes and Barkington's Hillary Loggins are in the ill-fated couple. No real laugh? The twists and turns of this play are sure to crack you up.

OUT OF ORDER

Thursday, March 11 through Saturday, March 13
8 p.m. and Sunday, March 14, 2 p.m., at Minnis
Hall in Boone, (307) 534-5325; www.reeseplayers.com

11-14 | THEATER

EXPOSURE 101: Creative market overview
 Sat 10:00, Burlington and Essex • 1000 \$45-\$55 (incl. p)
 100 Champlain Mall, Burlington • 802-443-5511 ext. 30
CHAMPLAIN VALLEY RACE & HIKING SHOW Sun
 Feb 18 10:00am - 7:00pm

SCIENCE WORKSHOP If you're curious about the
 science and technology for children, this first
 series and its kids are new friends. The Institute
 for Science & Society, Lexington • 10:30am - 12:30pm
 1000 \$10 (includes admission and lunch) 802-934-3470

**FOURTH & ADDITIVE FARMING: BUREAU OF
 AGRICULTURE** If you're curious about the science
 and technology for children, this first series and its
 kids are new friends. The Institute for Science &
 Society, Lexington • 10:30am - 12:30pm
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FRONTIER FARMHOUSE Speakers at various times
 from early afternoons to open practice sessions
 (Lunch) 10:30am - 12:30pm, 12:30pm - 2:00pm
 1000 \$10 (includes admission and lunch) 802-934-3470

HOME & ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SHOW If you're
 curious about the science and technology for
 children, this first series and its kids are new friends.
 The Institute for Science & Society, Lexington •
 10:30am - 12:30pm
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SATURDAY NIGHT HUBBLE In a look at the
 science and technology for children, this first series
 and its kids are new friends. The Institute for
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SEA MALL All day, 10:00am - 7:00pm
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March 12: Bolton Valley

March 19: Killington

March 21: Pico (Sunday)

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Wild Card (Eugene) by Adam Luxer

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3. **Off the Chain**
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4. **Lady and the Tramp**
(pet pairs in love/best pals)
5. **Wild Card** (exotic pets, dogs & cats need not apply)
6. **Caught on Video**
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careless of using such expressions. But Cao Liangzhi felt it would be appropriate for this type of discourse in the experimental course context for the Buddhist teachings of Zen.

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 Taijiquan (Taijichuan, taiji, taiji qigong) and Taiji movements. Taiji is an ancient Chinese martial art. The Taiji Tai Chi Institute (TTCI) is a non-profit organization. Taiji is a martial art, a health exercise, and a philosophy.

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Info: 12-hour sewing challenge. Entry
by: Wanda Schaefer, 877-876-8877
eighth@schaefersewing.com
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includes sewing techniques, tips, and
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your own machine and sew for
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Shih-Hong Chen
National Tsing Hua University

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continued on page 10

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Almost Like Spring

Art review: Aline Ordman & Christopher Griffin

West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park in Stone is getting a jump on spring by featuring two outstanding exhibitions that are decidedly asymmetrical bright and sunny eds by Nisse Godsson and a herd of splashed sounds including some found in summer classes, by Christopher Griffin. The two shows are different enough to stand on their own, yet their equally high caliber makes them nicely comely to share.

Ordinary half of the exhibit, titled "Suspended Movement," brings together more than a dozen small-scale oils and a few strong figure drawings. The paintings are very formal well composed, with highly controlled values and deliberate strong brushwork. The 20 by 16 inch "Waiting for the Bus, Cambridge" is a typical street scene that resembles a group of standing figures disappear when the title is read as a downtown bus shelter. Ordinary figures are blurry so there by someone recognized but that lack of concreteness defers makes gestures and shadows more important and interesting.

In the oil painting "Raffing," a 9 by 42-inch equestrian-themed canvas, a horse and rider angle away from the viewer, and are broken into patches of color. The background muds and hills are also simplified, so that broad shapes induce the eye to focus on Odean's smaller strokes describing the rider.

If the paintings seem forced, the drawings are intriguingly spontaneous. "Wade Campbell, 1967" is a 29 by 24-inch wood-block drawing that breaks through the border of the picture plane. Marotta's metal seems to fly off the rails

edges and the muscles of the partially covered male model appear tense. The posture is cat-like, the hairs brilliantly layered.

Goffin is a Canadian writer who last presented a body of work at West Branch in the spring of 2008. His current collection is entitled "New Mythology." Subjects range from a boy trapped in a labyrinth while Goffin's technique of using no capital letters and soft-edged, innovative, and his critics are creative and lively. Like nearly all of these poems, the 15 by 15-inch "Fish Market Poems" are monochromatic — in this case a pale rose-umber with wide and dark saphir lines defining the form. Goffin also indulges in playful word making, dashes and dots add visual elements to his words.

In "Bastards (poems)," a small brood transpires as white as white growth beneath a mass of asphodel blue growth, delineated by broad, brown asphodel lines. Another belline like piece, concerning movement is the massive 32 by 112-inch "Sperm Whale" Griffin painted in an three immensely spaced panels with a high horizon line. The magley ocean, brown seems to be crossing the blue-green underwater world by effortlessly sliding along a sheet of fish. From here, like some from ancient bottles, trace the whale's escape into oblivion.

"City Bull" depicts a 20- by 22-inch Plasmoglosson statue, but this longer representation of a more modern kind of shamanism — trading the entrails of the stock market. Griffin's artist statement, research, & 2008 has brought a new series — a bear or a bull is printed every day in response to the day's activity on the stock market." A group of 12-by-12-inch prints, says dating to January and February 2009 of bull and bear or something else, become a



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grad of 12 images. The rich texture of Goffinet's upshot medium is applied like stain painting and leads into the center, contrasting with the monotonous application of oil paint.

These colorful tandem exhibitions are

worth a visit, especially while the north coast
is still frozen and covered with snow.

RESEARCH APPROACH

E At the Ordway and Thompson's Griffin paintings, West Enders Gallery & Sculpture Shop, 1001 Thompson Ave. through May 2

ONGOING

Justification given

ANDY WARHOL: TECHNIQUES AND EXPERIMENTS A collection of early color photographs, including pop icons, from a gift of the Andy Warhol Foundation after a weekend into the collections of the 1970s and 80s. White Room Through April 26 at Fleming Museum. 9401 in Burlington. 978. 608-6507.

ARTICLE 100, PARAGRAPH 1 of the German Basic Law provides for the election of members by the Bundestag and the *Länder* parliaments. Through March 31st 1990, the *Länder* parliaments were the only ones to elect members.

ARTIST'S CHOICE Painters of the Los Angeles League show their selected works. Through March

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY REGIONAL ART SHOW
Artwork by students from elementary through high schools. Through March 31 at University Mall, South Burlington. Info: 802/225-0000.

CHIRAP ARTIST'S DEAD: IT JUST SMELLS FUNNY
The Glass of Ice Culture 1 presents an event to make at
Cardboard and Found part by artists from various
and across the country, easy for the audience
proof piece of 50. Through March 31 at Rhysling a
transmission. 404. 515-4000.

ELANOR GARNETT 'A Farming Gathering: Sculptures and Reliefs' new wooden sculptures and oil on wall coverings, ink paintings and gouaches on linens by the artist/producer artist. Through March 22 at: *Agnes Blackie Group* (Brighton) in Brighton. Info: 01323 55851.

CHANE D. BELL, Researcher in the Landscapes of a World, through March 28 at www.wpa.wisc.edu.

JEROME HOLLER Scramble Light on the Champlain Valley: high-format photographic work on a microscope

Champion Chambers of Commerce in Burlington,
July 1852-53

AREA 51 Fortify photography Through Month 23 of Operation Enduring Freedom

[illegible]

JUNE 2000 "You're Not Always a Fish." Game developers of happy-couples made using new and old photo-booths, and technology. Through April 20 at Venetian, Downtown or Burlington, Info: 800-733-3333

LAKEBRO-BOWEN Acrylic Insulation is currently being installed at the Burlington Hotel, through March 15 at The Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, through April 15, 1987.

MAISON MARTIN MARGIELA Abstract, multi-media
panel exp. Through March 22 at Spring Films in
New York City, see page 10.

RELAXING & RECHARGING: A group view of contemporary art by artists affiliated with the artists by Jovon Brice, Randy Waters, Mike Nix, Nick Clark, Dorian and more. Contemporary Museum, 101 Madison Ave., New York, NY. 10017. 212-677-1000. www.contemperarymuseum.org

DR. HANS-JOACHIM GRIEMER, "West Forward" column, needs more than 100 hours of volunteer work for Tandemtranslating.com. He would prefer: "Through the Month" of 2013. Contact: hjgriemer@tandemtranslating.com

WINE EXCHANGE & GIFT SERVICE The members of the Evansville Art League show their results. Through April 30 at Evansville Tower Office. Info: 334-3034

PAUL WILSON *Subject: "The City of Senegalese Levee: A First View of Its History" photographs of the people and places represented by the word's very existence, which occurred in this past year and further*

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ART LISTINGS AND SPOTLIGHTS ARE WRITTEN BY FUMELA POLETEN
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[illegible]

Art in the 'Hood

BY MEGAN JAMES

The moment you step into the Brandon Artists' Guild gallery, the sense of creative connectivity is palpable. On one wall, there's Leta Myers' painting of a nest full of eggs, on the opposite — caught in flight on Michael Kiri's canvas — are the birds that could have left the eggs behind. And it appears those birds are headed into the misty watercolor landscapes of Benne Bird, which hang nearby.

On any given day, each of the guild's 63 juried artists is represented in the roughly 3500-square-foot cooperative gallery in downtown Brandon. And that apparently makes for a hotbed of inspiration.

"I walk around here and stand all over the place," jokes inadvertently known folk artist and Brandon resident Warren Kimble, an energetic 75-year-old with fiery Potter-style glasses. He's quick to clarify that it's only ideas his searching, of course, not physical works of art. "Not copying but, like, 'Wow, I can take that and use it in my own work,'" Kimble says.

He's earned the right to make such jokes. Kimble has given more to this gallery — and to the town — than even he cares to admit.

He says it was luck that the guild managed to blossom in a once rundown, bedroom community for Rutland, and it's partially true. Some good timing was involved. In the late '90s, when Kimble and a handful of other local artists were angling for a gallery space, a longtime Brandon property owner suddenly left town. Firing up more than 50 pieces of inexpensive real estate and attracting a fresh batch of newcomers to the area.

"The stars came together," says Jeff Stewart, president of the artists' guild. "But were it not for Warren, this just wouldn't have happened."

That's because, in 1999, Kimble had a fortuitous encounter with the president of the First Brandon Bank outside a former five-unit clinic on Center Street. The bank had just bought the place and planned to use it for storage. Kimble seized the opportunity.

He started small, asking if a few artists might be allowed to use the windows to display their work. The bank president said, "Sure," and Kimble posted a little note. "Well, could you push your store up on the back and let us use the front?" The bank president agreed.



EACH OF THE GUILD'S 63 JURIED ARTISTS IS REPRESENTED IN THE ROUGHLY 3500-SQUARE-FOOT COOPERATIVE GALLERY IN DOWNTOWN BRANDON. AND THAT APPARENTLY MAKES FOR A HOTBED OF INSPIRATION.



So, with the front half of a building, a \$5000 loan from the Chamber of Commerce, a bunch of payphones and some cheap lighting, Kimble and crew created a gallery and named three guys the Brandon Artists' Guild. By 2003 they had enough support from the community to launch their first town-wide art project, "The Really, Really Big Show." Suddenly residents and visitors were looking at 60 Bhengase pigs that had

been painted and styled by guild artists, area school children and other locals. The show drew unprecedented attention to the Brandon arts scene.

Acquiring all those pigs drew in enough money for the guild to buy back the building from the bank and donate to arts education in the area.

"The pigs bought the building," Kimble says. "And then every other town decided to do it, too, which was great.

Ludlow did Ithaca and Bennington did moose and Woodstock did sheep!"

Brandon made a tradition of town-wide art project, decorating its streets each year with ornamental racking chairs, birdhouses, cats and dogs or stars. This year the town is planning to pepper the neighborhood with painted rainbows.

The RAG gallery's current exhibit is called "It was THIS big," the one that got away" and features guild artists' work on the themes of fishing and emigration.

These days, at least one of the artists is always on hand in the gallery — since the guild is an entirely volunteer operation, members are encouraged to take shifts. Plus, their commission from sales increases commensurately with the hours they put into the organization's various endeavors. Since its inception, the group has aimed to give back to the community offering sales, lectures and potlucks. Its artists also teach classes at the local Reps & Girls' Club and in after-school programs.

The cooperative nature of the guild means artists are often bouncing ideas off one another. This is especially true for the darts who have adjacent studios in the grocery building just down the road from the gallery. Maybe that's why seeing their artswallons display together feels like walking in on a conversation among friends.

"We see each other passing in the night," Kimble says. "We grew from each other." Decades into his own career, he says the vibrant artists' community in Brandon got him trying new things, setting aside the whimsical portraits of cows and chickens that brought him success and trying his hand at larger, more abstract paintings of bones, shells and stars.

The other day, Kimble notes, fellow painter and guild member Michael Kim popped by his studio and was surprised to see the folk artist working on giant paintings.

"He said, 'Wow, you're doing big stuff!'" Kimble recalls. "And I said, 'Meh, I got that from you!'"



The Brandon Artists' Guild
11 Center Street, Brandon, VT 05736
www.brandonartistsguild.org



"Give Us Some Blues"

A group exhibit at Torr's Trade Place Arts offers many interpretations of the heralded hue. The show of two- and three-dimensional works by area artists includes the one pictured here, "The Little Walker Piff" by Rob Milford-Minden. This Saturday, March 13, SPA invites the water weary to "shake out your blues" with a BASH — start's "Big Army BVA Happening" — with food and drink, a silent auction and live music from the Funk You'll Be Band and Beth Yacovone (See listing for details.) The exhibit remains on view until April 17.

CENTRAL ART SHOWS W. 147

champlain valley

8TH ANNUAL LENDING ARTISTS EXHIBIT

Planting college careers, floor and wall art are lent by eight area high school students through March 23 at Art in Motion Festival, July 4-13-13.

A FINEST PAINTINGS AND PRINTS FROM THE CHAMPLAIN MUSEUM Study works represent the artists of local art and education and are on view 1000, and celebrated by the local art and education. Through June 8 at Champlain College Museum of Art, July 4-13-13.

FRANK BULL, in French Field, an installation of sculpture and photography that explores the commodification and differences, impact and present form on capital. Through March 23 at Corning, 1000 and Sculpture Center in the Corning Business, July 4-13-13.

GRACEY BY BORN THE 19TH-CENTURY EXHIBIT FOR THE SOURCES OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION. The sources of western art and architecture from French and American art and architecture. Through March 23 at Champlain College Museum of Art, July 4-13-13.

IT WAS THIS DAY The artist's art and architecture. Through April 13 at Champlain College Museum of Art, July 4-13-13.

ROBERT A. GALT "The artist's art and architecture. Through April 13 at Champlain College Museum of Art, July 4-13-13."

SWARA FOLK "The artist's art and architecture. Through April 13 at Champlain College Museum of Art, July 4-13-13."

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15" long and we bet she'll be a redhead like
her brother Jasper. Her sisters and brother are
thrilled their baby sister has finally arrived and
dad, Richard Scott (age unknown), looks pretty
happy watching over his big happy family. May
every day be magical.



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"STATUES OF NATURE" It doesn't just take artists and writers; photographers explore the landscape. Through March 14 at *Agnes Scott Gallery* in Marietta, Ga. www.agnes-scott.edu

TRENT CAMPBELL, "Behind the Scenes" photo by the Addison County photographer of the previous anniversary of the Middlebury Community Players' closing of *The Music Man*. Through May 14, Jackson Gallery, 1000 Main St. in Montpelier only. 1999, 1998.



Chuck Bohn Having generations of farmers in his family has given the Mansfield artist sensitivity to the changes in the Vermont countryside, and how those changes — whether motivated by humans or climate — affect the people who live on the land. Now that he's retired from teaching art 30-42, Bohn is focused on making his own. His current exhibit, titled "Upways," at Mansfield's Whiting Light Gallery, shows off some recent oil landscapes. The show is on view through March 28.

more than

ACT WITH IMPACT! A group of students during a recent school assembly and sign either to students or to parents. From Knoxville to Adams Plains, Tennessee, the group is working to help the poor. For more information, contact the group at 1-800-833-8333.

ALINE BIRDAHN-CHRISTOPHER CRAM:
Suspended Moments® and "New Mythology" are the signature styles of the renowned artist of figurative paintings. Through May 1 at West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park in Dover. Info: 202.366.6666.

ELIZABETH NELSON illustrates scenes paintings inspired by the "lost" dairy school days and evoked geography of Vermont. "Through March 23 at Cavers Restaurant, 22 Rue in Harwich, Info: 508/255-0000.

IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE ART PROJECT Twenty-eight years of art created by gallery members with accompanying volumes analyzed eggs and smelting from local residents. Through March 21 at Auld in Brevard is an Immigration Galleries, Brevard in Falls.

GRACE HOLSTROM is a sampling of artwork by young artists in the Social Studies Art and Community

Effort progresses through April 30 at ORATE to
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ARIES (March 21-April 19) Sarah Bernhardt (1844-1923) was called the most famous actress the world has ever known." She did her first films in the early days of the cinema, but most of her work was in the theater. At age 70 she played the role of the 19-year-old Juliet in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. I commend her for her refusal to act her age and exhortation that you make a comparable effort in the coming years. For example, I guess in your work as I try something you thought you wouldn't do until you were at a very ripe age. If you're over 50 for 20 for a while, it's an exact time to do the kind of thing I've done.

TALUS (April 30-May 30) You might have to use part-time income to accomplish these wonders. It may be necessary to headline back to what worked in the past in order to earn the highest value of the future. Take your cue from Luis Lomax. He's only teaches who can recite literary or 100 books on the back of a donkey in 10 minutes around the biodiversity of Colombia. <http://www.museo.kids.com/News/ta.html>

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Harems have been baking and cooking for at least 3000 years. But a word used in the 20th century that anyone's guess is a fast and easy way to put it into this process? Then Otto Reinweider who had been working on the project for 18 years produced a machine that cut a loaf into individual slices. Is this his year when Gemini, because I think you are in a phase of your life when you could very possibly create an innovation that would be necessary for humanity as Reinweider's was for the masses. In fact, why aren't you working on it right now?

CANCER (June/21 July/02) In order to best deep-seated problems, people may need to engage in long-term psychotherapy, potentially going away of their mental blocks for many years. But some ladybugs/evergethe news as an apperly family overnight, others with the help of a momental event that shakes them out of their male so or through the work of a brilliant healer who used a few strokes of his magic compass to most vely deeply the debated factions. I think you're now a credit to the British base of cooperation. Cancerous

LEO July 23-Aug. 23 To discover the most useful truths, you've got to peek behind the curtains and not be afraid to see what's cloaked in the dark and realize your captives means you'd rather not touch. What complicates your life is that the free truths may be more false and as my beloved ran you from the door and a dry stuff with the violent less come-on. But I have confidence in your ability to outmaneuver the propaganda. Use. You shall know the hype and knowing the hype will set you free.

VIRGO (Sept. 23-Sept. 22) The evil genius of the identifying industry is hard at work in their latest drubbing up industries new means to endlessly stimulate your consumer lusts to get you to believe in marketing techniques and claim you're coming down with chronic food allergy. You've read how a fever (AIDS) and heat's the trigger of whiteness. Don't read them out some pale relatives and cohorts are angling to connect you to what glazes them in what glazes you. So to share any hope that you will be able to harness an unwholesome fact you're [it's] an early impact and that you do target me [the answer is my opinion is a qualified yes — if you're willing to conduct intensive research into the science of food and the science of food — honey, and if you can't afford to be aware who you eat, when you're turned on all the way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) If you were living in Greece in the fifth century B.C., I'd urge you to bask in the healing spring of the shrine of Asclepius in Athens. If you were in 16th-century France, I'd recommend that you bask in the sacred shrine at Lourdes — being sure to cross the half mile on your hands and knees — and go from the coast to inland towns. But since you're a busy 21st-century sight-seer and may have a limited bid in at Lourdes, I'd simply suggest that you visit the most interesting hot-spring and spill-overs of warm waters over your head in your confessional you're not and ask the sky for forgiveness and ang' comest thou purify you to the source.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) It is quite possible that the nature of consciousness is in the re-tilt of a fundamental transformation. The human



Pisces

Feb. 12-March 20)

I used to have an overprotective mother who, as she pulled me with needles, tried to talk to me with reasoning or Chinese medicine. Once she told me that once I became a doctor, I would be able to "take a holy man's breath" on the queen's devoted child." At the heart project I saw it was something you're born with. You're given a sense of building your dreams and taking care of your body. I think the heart protector will be an apt metaphor for you to play with in the coming weeks. Peace. I'm going to be an excellent tutor for you to achieve any part of your life that gives your heart joy, strength, and an open embrace.

rice seems to be getting more empathetic, more compassionate, and even more joyful. Many of us have living experiences that were previously thought to be the purveyors of myths, such as therapists that give us visceral perceptions of the interconnectedness of all life. Even in some traditional religious leaders and devotees, including fundamentalists, there are now increasing numbers of intelligent seekers who still vote a more idiosyncratic measure outside the dogmatic framework. If you haven't been on this journey, soon, well, it's

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) The week you'll be waking overtime while you sleep. Your dreaming mind will be playing around with solutions to your waking problems. Your ally like wild conqueror is the remarkable diamond-encrusted sanctuary at the edge of the deep dark forest will be

to bring out, modern stories are sounding up being fair for you. So if course you should keep a pen and notepad by your bed to record the dreams that come. I suggest that you also try to keep the first part of your mornings free of busy work so you can integrate the full impact of the night's gifts. And don't despair if you can't actually remember any of your nocturnal adventures. The clarity often comes as you work with you subliminally giving your logical mind a rest and letting your imagination

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 18) There'll be an abundance of surprising chances for you to make in the coming days. I'm not implying they'll come just that the different situations will be clearly delineated. To get you warmed up for your hopefully crop decisions, the examples are few and far. Pick one of each of these pairs: 1 existing business or free-lance earnings; 2 political logic or generous feelings; 3 grace and/or captured-common sense as head-on expression; 4 genuine like a contented sheep or could or like, speed like, like or avoid.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Among Eastern religions, karma traditions teach the value of getting rid of your desires. To be a good, enlightened, successful person, you have to give up I think you should rebel against that idea and instead develop a whole host of wonderful desires. Give your imagination place! There is no free lunch! I recommend a desire for a mission or experience that will take you away from the current here as much as it is a desire for a kind of peace of quiet from a personal source. A desire for a religious path, a desire for a teacher, a desire to be more creative, to study the sciences, to be more successful with your finances, to merge with a desire for a job of unexpected beauty that reminds you how much you love to be always keep on your own, and your own.

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Curses, Foiled Again

After shaking handcuffs, a Taser and other stunts from an unmarked police car on Ocean, Fla., Shonie Thornton Williams-Alfon, 18, was apprehended what he "foiled the handcuffs on himself and had to call the Cleveland Police Department in response to release him," according to an arrest affidavit. Lake County subdivision who took Williams-Alfon into custody and he told them that while removing the Taser from the police car, "he discharged, hitting the floor and causing his foot to get shocked." (Orlando Sentinel)

Just Can't Get Enough

South Africa's President Jacob Zuma confirmed that he fathered the daughter of a woman who isn't one of his three wives. Zuma has 19 other children. Irwin Solom, a representative of South African National Congress Party, said that the president's relationship with the woman didn't result in children because the 67-year-old Zuma is a polygamist and may have been intending to marry the 39-year-old woman. "There is something called celibacy," Solom explained. "What that means is that before you do officially get married there is the cohabiting period. And during that period nothing can happen." Solom wouldn't confirm whether Zuma

was or fully planning a wedding. (British Daily Telegraph)

Ten Times Fast

Two 47-year-old men accused of stealing a \$950 postal truck in Holliston, Fla., are named Richard A. Pluck and Bryna Flek. Police and Pluck and Flek took the truck from the post office, resigned it and ended it. (Milton's Morning Call)

Irony Illustrated

A single engine airplane used for crash hour traffic reports in metropolitan Philadelphia crashed a mile and a half backup in both directions of the New Jersey Turnpike when it made an emergency landing on the northbound lanes near Cherry Hill. Nothing as cars was stopped, New Jersey Turnpike Authority said the backups were due mostly to rubbernecking, adding, "For the first time in eight years, I can probably say that had a good reason to stop and look" (Associated Press)

Not-So-Great Escapes

Police pursuing a gang of house burglars in Oakland, Calif., found four of the suspects wedged in a 6 by 12-inch space between buildings. "I heard someone come through my gate and ran past, and they came to this really wog" local

resident Dave Moore said. "It burst into a flame at the end, so they tried to come back through and get stuck" (KTVU-TV News)

Troma Copeland, 38, hailed from a courtroom during his head beating in Washington, D.C., and headed for a signpost that connects courthouses in two buildings. As Lake County sheriff's deputies closed in, Copeland, ignoring that he was two stories above a busy street, tried to shoulder-blast his way through a signpost window to make his escape. The bulletproof glass didn't break when Copeland hit it with his head and should die, however. Instead, he bounced off the window and staggered to the floor, while nine deputies with guns drawn surrounded him. When Copeland was returned to the courtroom, his bail was raised from \$50,000 to \$1.5 million. (Arlington Heights Daily Herald)

Reasonable Explanation

A jury found Mark Zachary, 51, guilty of stealing an \$50 slab of beef from a store in Greengrove, N.C. Authorities said that when a store manager approached Zachary about the missing meat and the bag lodge under his shirt, he fell — right into the arms of an off-duty police officer. He testified that he wasn't stealing the

meat, just "messing" it. (Associated Press)

Incendiary Devices

Fire department officials investigating a rooftop blaze at a Houston shopping center identified the cause as an inflatable gorilla on the roof. After the remnants of the gorilla were found, District Chief Fred Becker said the "blowup doll" had deflated and landed on some lights, sparking the fire. (KHOU-TV)

A 38-year-old German man trying to force out his car on a road in Ireland. A police official in Hillsborough said the man left a blow heater next to the frame window and window took and went inside to wait. Shortly afterwards, he heard two explosions and returned to find the vehicle on fire. Authorities estimated damages to the car and the man's house at \$50,140. (Reuters)

Bung in the Road

Four months into his attempt to travel around the world in a school bus powered by trash by far to highlight the benefits of using low carbon energy, British-born activist Andy Pat, 34, was arrested in northern India. His family said Pat faces no terrorism charges and will free for using a satellite phone without permission. (BBC News)

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⊗ CALCOKU BY JOSH KEYMELES

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

For the upcoming numbers it is only once it really has and column. The numbers in each row and column must sum to the number in the top-left corner of the grid. Numbers in the top-left corner of the grid are not used in the grid. Numbers in the top-left corner of the grid are not used in the grid. Numbers in the top-left corner of the grid are not used in the grid.

★ = MODERATE ★★★ = CHALLENGING ★★★★★ = HOT BOY! — FIND ANSWERS & CROSSWORD IN THE CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

BLISS BY HARRY BLISS



"...and while I observe the moment, progressive stages you bring to your argument, I still, want want that you eat your vegetables."



⊗ SUDOKU BY JOSH KEYMELES

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, column, each column and each 3x3 box contains all the numbers from 1 to 9. The same numbers cannot be repeated in a row or column.

NO EXIT

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BIG NUMBERS



MARCH 2, 2010

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THE BOY WHO COULD FLY



MARCH 2, 2010

EVERYTHING



MARCH 2, 2010

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LEARN!

A JOURNEY TO GREECE

Thurs, March 25, 5:30 PM - 6 PM \$35

This is a hands on class where you'll learn to put the simple, bold flavors of Greek cuisine together to make three traditional dishes. Plus, we can't leave out classic Greek salad, one of our favorite things!

On the Menu: Doulamas Lamb Meatballs and Tzatziki Sauce



ITALIAN EASTER PASTRIES

Tues, March 30, 5:30 PM - 6 PM \$35

As a young girl growing up in an extended Italian family in South Philadelphia, Adele Damico learned to cook alongside her Italian grandmother, her mother and four aunts. Join us as Adele demonstrates delicious Easter pastries. We'll be making a wide range of pastries from ricotta pie to cannoli shells, which are amazingly easy if you know the right tricks! This class is a combination of hands on cooking and demonstration. There will be plenty of eating (as always!) and you'll take home some truly wonderful pastries.

On the Menu: Ricotta Cheese Pie, Baci/Cannoli
Pre-regISTRATION for both classes is required.

EAT!

FIRE-ROASTED TOMATO AND OLIVE BRUSCHETTA

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. oz. can fire roasted sliced tomatoes drained (see the Menu Guide)
- 1/2 cup pitted kalamata olive, coarsely chopped
- 1/8 cup jarred roasted red peppers, drained coarsely chopped
- 4 TB. chopped fresh basil
- 2 TB. extra virgin olive oil
- 12 long, thin baguette slices, 1/2 inch thick
- 8 oz. cheese room temperature

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In a mixing bowl combine the tomatoes, olives, peppers, basil and oil. Brush the baguette slices with olive oil, place on a cookie sheet and bake for 4-5 minutes until golden brown. Spread the cheese on toasted baguette slices and top with the tomato mixture.



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